

The Nation

VOL. XLI.—NO. 1044.

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1885

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The Nation.

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The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1885.

The Week.

THE President's selection for Collector of New York to succeed Mr. Robertson is not the best possible, but we are confident that he has had good reasons for making it. At present the objections to Mr. Hedden are lifted into greater prominence than his merits, simply because the latter remain to be demonstrated by his official conduct. The warm approval of Hubert O. Thompson is a serious objection, and we are disposed to give it its full weight, but the approval of many eminent merchants must be taken for its full weight also; and moreover, while Mr. Thompson is claiming the choice as his "victory," and is naturally taking as much credit for it as he can gain, it is by no means improbable that he is exaggerating the power of his personal influence in securing the appointment, and that he rather than the public may be disappointed in the new Collector's methods. The President and his advisers have taken hold of the abuses in the Custom-house with a firm and intelligent purpose to correct them, and we are confident that the new Collector has been appointed with a view to expediting and not hindering that work. He is an unknown man, but there are thousands of good men in New York who are no better known who are capable of making first-rate Collectors. We do not say he will make that kind of an officer. We simply will not condemn him or the President until a basis for judgment has been furnished.

The outburst of hostile criticism which the appointment has provoked is very instructive as showing the level to which the President has lifted all kinds of appointments. The public expectation is higher than it has been for years. Take, for example, the men who have been chosen for Collectors within recent years and compare them with Mr. Hedden. There was "Tom" Murphy, Grant's choice; what were his qualifications? After him came Chester A. Arthur, who was put in office solely because of his shrewdness as a politician. Then came General Merritt, who was not even a resident of the city, was not even a business man, but a professional politician from the interior of the State. He was removed by Blaine and Garfield to make room for Judge Robertson, who was also a professional politician, and who had earned the place by his services in splitting the New York delegation to the Chicago Convention, thus defeating the third-term scheme, and making Garfield's nomination possible. There was no pretence of reform in any of these appointments, and there was no especial fitness in any of the candidates. President Cleveland's choice is better and more fit than any of them, and it would have been at once accepted as such had not he taught the public to expect from him the best possible. Sharp critics will do well to recall their harsh judgment of Mr. Manning at the time of his selection for the Treasury portfolio, and compare it with their present opinions of his course.

The restoration of Mr. Burt to the position of Naval Officer in the Custom-house was one of those acts of poetic justice, as well as of public duty, which in our Government, owing to the tyranny of party, few Presidents have ever been able to perform. No Republican President certainly has ever done anything of the kind so creditable. Mr. Burt was a Republican from the beginning. He had fifteen years of faithful and efficient service in the Custom-house to show, and had been in part rewarded for it by promotion. He had been identified with civil-service reform in the Custom-house from its first introduction. Moreover, he was an old friend, from their college days, of President Arthur. Nevertheless, with all these titles to reward and to consideration, and with all this suitableness and efficiency, when Mr. Burt's term expired President Arthur kicked him out of office without the slightest ceremony, and as if in mockery, or to make a joke for "the boys," offered him the place of Chief Examiner of the United States Civil-Service Commission, at a salary of \$3,000 a year, in place of the Naval Office, at \$8,000. One does not envy the feelings of the man to-day who did this thing. He had to be a dog to do it. But one does envy the feelings of the Democratic President who, without any solicitation from Mr. Burt or his friends, undid it, and put back this faithful Republican into the office from which he ought never to have been removed.

There were employed in the New York Custom-house, at the last published summary of the force, 1,480 persons, from Collector down to scrubber. Of these the Collector, Naval Officer, Surveyor, and Appraiser have the absolute appointment of barely 200 of all sorts, and more than half of these are messengers, porters, janitors, watchmen, etc. All others can enter the service only by the door of competitive examinations.

Two cases of important officials in the Treasury Department now under discussion illustrate in a concrete way the abstract principles which should govern the retention or dismissal of men found by a new Administration in high positions in the service. Secretary Manning has requested the resignation of Mr. Burchard, Director of the Mint, and a current rumor represents Mr. Fiedler, ex-Congressman of New Jersey, as seeking the place of Mr. Kimball, Superintendent of the Life-Saving Service. Here are two men who have been long in office, one of whom ought to be dismissed in the interest of good government, while every consideration of efficient administration demands the retention of the other. Mr. Burchard's original appointment by a Republican President was discreditable, his only "claims" being that he had failed of reelection to Congress and needed to be "taken care of," and that he had been an ardent silver man. He has never manifested any executive talent, and a new Administration conducted upon business principles must necessarily be hampered by his continuance in office. On the other hand, Mr. Kim-

ball is as near the ideal sort of a head for the Life-Saving Bureau as the country could ever expect to get. He has grown up with the bureau, so to speak, reached his present position legitimately, enforced the principles of non-partisan administration for years before there was any civil-service act, and in short has made his branch of the Government a model. His removal would be an act of the grossest injustice, which there is not the slightest reason to suppose has ever been contemplated by his superiors. If Mr. Burchard had been an official of the Kimball school, he might expect popular sympathy in his efforts to retain his place; as it is, he deserves none.

The position of inspector in the Post-office Department is one which demands special business qualifications. The idea that a man should be appointed to such an office because he had been a "good worker" in ward politics, or because he had "strong political backing," or because he had not been able to earn his living in any other way, is simply ridiculous. Yet the custom has always been to make these appointments on such grounds, and as the Civil-Service Act does not cover inspectorships, Republican Postmasters General continued to regard the places as part of the patronage. It was left for a Democrat, exercising the discretionary power allowed the heads of departments, to apply the principles of careful investigation as to the business (not the political) qualifications of applicants, and to subject them to an examination which should fairly test their ability to perform the duties required. By applying these common-sense principles, Mr. Vilas has reached a sound basis for making appointments, and it is entirely safe to predict that the twenty-two new inspectors whom he named last week will make a much better record than any other twenty-two in the body. The Administration could not give a more convincing proof of its sincerity than by thus voluntarily extending the scope of the civil-service system.

We have been watching with some interest to see what view the President's enemies would take of the appointment of Judge Stallo, of Cincinnati, as Minister to Italy, and are gratified to find that in the main it is very favorable. No newspaper of any party has been able to question the entire fitness of the Judge for the position, or to say a word in disparagement of his eminent ability, high accomplishments, and admirable personal character. The only objection which we have seen is the profound one of the *Tribune*, that "possibly the Judge will not be particularly welcome at the Vatican, as well-nigh the most conspicuous Free-thinker in this country," and this does not strike the country as insuperable. Mr. Kelley was the kind of man who was "particularly welcome at the Vatican," and we should have supposed that the controversy over him would have revealed to the *Tribune* the fact that the American Minister to Italy is sent to the Italian Court,

rather than to the Vatican. There are a good many expressions of surprise at the *Tribune's* ignorance on this point, but there need not be. The daily task of keeping the bloody-shirt floating in the wind, with no help from any quarter, is so onerous that little else can be attended to.

The memorial which the most eminent dry-goods merchants of the country have sent to the President in regard to the efforts of the Administration to have the revenues honestly collected, is likely to put an end to further discussion about the "oppressive Treasury regulations." The document is signed by names of firms which will be recognized in all parts of the country as standing first in America in reputation, character, and commercial ability. When such men as these put their names to a declaration that the importers who had an interview with the President on Wednesday week, "do not represent the class of merchants who suffer most by the system of undervaluations, but on the contrary are representatives here of foreign manufacturers, and act as consignees of foreign firms, and not as owners of the merchandise they import," all doubt about the real motives of those complaining importers is ended. They were begging for a continuation of the old system, by which foreign manufacturers have been enriched at the expense of American merchants. Their protests are the best possible evidence that the new Treasury regulations are as effective as they are legal and wise; and if further evidence were needed on this point, it is found in the closing portion of the memorial of the American merchants: "We earnestly advocate the present system of reappraisements and reforms so recently adopted by the Government, and we most heartily approve the efforts of the Government in its attempt to protect honest importers in their legitimate business."

It appears that ex-Secretary Chandler's letter about the *Dolphin*, published last week, does not agree with his statements made in his report to Congress in 1883 about the same vessel and what she would be in speed and in other respects. He as completely contradicts himself in the two documents as Mr. Roach did in his two statements. The trouble with both men is the same. They have been, during their peculiar partnership in ship-building, in the habit of talking very plausibly to the public, and then making contracts which were very bad for the Government, but very good things for themselves. Now they are attempting the impossible task of making their work and their talk harmonize. If they were not so nervous about what has already come out, and still more nervous about what is yet to come, they would see that their best course is to keep very quiet and say nothing. This ought to be much easier for Mr. Chandler than for Mr. Roach. The latter has his reputation as a shipbuilder at stake, but the former has no reputation of any kind that we can think of which will be seriously damaged by any such exposure. He was simply a machine politician of the ordinary type when he was put at the head of the Navy Department, and it will be a surprise to no careful observer of his career that he administered the

ship-building branch of the Department in the same way as he did the other branches of it—like a machine politician.

Senator Logan appears to have taken in dead earnest all the jubilant talk which his admirers have been indulging in lately about his position as the foremost "leader" of his party. His speech in Boston on Monday night was pitched in the vein of a leader, and is, considering Logan's record as a friend of civil-service reform, very amusing reading. He has a very low opinion of the kind of reform which is going on at Washington, and says with perfect truth that it is not of the Republican kind, and that the only way to restore true civil-service reform will be to put the Republicans in power again. And that the Republican party will presently return to power, he has no doubt whatever, because "its principles, knocking at the door of the conscience of the people, will regain admission." What these "principles" are he thus explains:

"It is the party of the people. Protection to our home free labor demands it; the restoration of true civil-service reform demands it; adequate appropriations to aid the system of free schools wherever needed demand it; the promoting of our home industrial interests in all proper ways demands it. The necessity for the enforcement of the right of every voter within our national boundaries to cast his ballot and have the same fairly counted at the national elections, and to give to each man that equal and adequate protection before the law to which he is entitled, requires the return of the Republicans to power, both in Congress and in the Executive branch of the Government, in order that the financial system established by the Republican party may be preserved, that the revenues of the country may be protected against unwarranted claims upon the Treasury."

It will be seen that this is the "keynote" of the late campaign, without a single new variation. What Logan means by the "financial system established by the Republican party" includes, of course, unlimited silver coinage, of which he was always an advocate. What he means by true civil-service reform everybody, including all the members of the Logan family who were quartered on the Government in one position or another, knows. What he means by "protection," the Custom-house revelations show. What he means by "unwarranted claims upon the Treasury" may mean the old rebel-claims bugaboo, or it may mean John Roach's bills for the *Dolphin*.

Everybody expects talk of this kind from Logan, because he is that kind of a man. He has been a working politician all his life and has succeeded in getting a very comfortable living by his exertions. He has never taken a "theoretical" view of anything in politics, and for that reason his disgust with the Cleveland kind of civil-service reform is natural and to be expected. But what shall be said in explanation of Senator Hoar, who spoke after Logan, and went far beyond him in the partisanship of his censure of the national Administration? Mr. Hoar criticised the foreign appointments with great bitterness; said that Mr. Pendleton was only "a little bit of a civil-service reformer," who lent his name to a bill which Dorman B. Eaton had matured; and apparently had not a good word to say for anything which has been done at Washington since the fourth of March,

for he declared that for his part "he was prepared to serve God in the minority rather than serve Baal with the Democrats and Mugwumps, even though they were in the majority." Henry Cabot Lodge, we are told in the telegraphic accounts of this remarkable occasion, "also condemned the Democratic civil-service policy." What hope is there for the Republican party if its "leaders" have nothing better to say for it than this?

We referred the other day to the evidence of growing harmony between the two races in Mississippi afforded by the fact that whites and blacks are working together in the temperance movement, and that many colored men have been chosen as delegates to the approaching State Convention of the Prohibitionists. An even more important proof of the same tendency is shown by the action of a prominent Democratic club in Warren County, Miss., of which Vicksburg is the capital, with reference to the coming election in that county. The club a few days ago adopted a resolution declaring that many reforms in administration are needed, "and in order to accomplish these ends, all persons, regardless of color, are cordially invited to unite and cooperate with us." There is not the slightest doubt that the Democrats in the South will speedily win over a large proportion of the black voters to their side. The chief reason why they have hitherto voted the Republican ticket was because they had been taught that a Democratic victory meant their reenslavement. Now that all such apprehensions have been allayed, as that leading colored Republican, ex-Congressman Lynch, of Mississippi, admits to be the case, they will not be afraid to vote the same way as their white neighbors. In the North, too, the effect of the change of Administration is already seen in a growing disposition among the colored men to divide their votes. This is strikingly illustrated by the strong opposition among them to the election of the Republican candidate for Governor in Ohio, because of his attitude as a lawyer on the mixed-school question some years ago. As there are some 22,000 colored males in the State, the great majority of whom have hitherto voted the Republican ticket, a serious defection in their ranks may prove an important and even decisive element in a close contest.

The colored people of Texas observe the 19th of June as "Emancipation Day." Last week was the first time they ever celebrated the anniversary under a Democratic President, and in view of the Blaine prophecies of last fall that a change of Administration would mean the virtual reenslavement of the blacks, Northern people will be interested to learn how the day passed off in the State which gives the largest Democratic majority of any in the Union. Reports to the *Galveston News* from a score of different points agree in representing that the celebration was on a more general scale than ever before. A most significant and encouraging feature of the observance was the cooperation of the whites in many places. Thus we read that at Wharton "quite a number of whites were in attendance, and were loud in their praise

of the splendid barbecue and of the pleasant and harmonious manner in which the celebration was conducted." At Hillsboro the colored people were addressed by two prominent white citizens, as well as by several speakers of their own race. At Corsicana fully 5,000 people were present at the fair grounds, "where speeches were made by prominent citizens of both colors." At Burton the colored people "spread a sumptuous banquet, and cordially extended an invitation to their pale-face friends to partake of the feast, offering separate accommodations to them." To appreciate how much this state of things means and what great progress in harmony between the races it shows, one must remember that only a few years ago it would have been impossible to get a white man in Texas to address a colored audience on Emancipation Day, while a proposition to accept "a sumptuous banquet" at a "nigger celebration" would have been spurned with contempt. Like many other recent developments in the South, this news from Texas shows that the race problem is working itself out satisfactorily, and that it is no longer necessary for the North to elect "war horses" to office in order to make sure that the negroes shall be protected from oppression.

The recent exposition in the *Evening Post* of the contribution made to the Union army from the slave States, especially those on the border line, renders peculiarly timely a discussion between two South Carolina papers as to the composition of the Confederate army. The *Charleston News and Courier* a fortnight ago remarked that "not more than one Southern soldier in ten or fifteen was a slaveholder, or had any interest in slave property." The *Laurensville Herald* disputed the statement, and declared that "the Southern army was really an army of slaveholders and the sons of slaveholders." The *Charleston* paper stands by its original position, and cites figures which are conclusive. The military population of the eleven States which seceded, according to the census of 1860, was 1,064,193. The entire number of slaveholders in the country at the same time was 383,637, but of these 77,335 lived in the border States, so that the number in the seceding States was only 306,302. Most of the small slaveholders, however, were not slave-owners, but slave-hirers, and Mr. De Bow, the statistician who supervised the census of 1850, estimated that but little over half the holders were actually owners. The proportion of owners diminished between 1850 and 1860, and the *News and Courier* thinks that there were not more than 150,000 slave-owners in the Confederate States when the war broke out. This would be one owner to every seven white males between eighteen and forty-five; but as many of the owners were women, and many of the men were relieved from military service, the *Charleston* paper is confirmed in its original opinion that there were ten men in the Southern army who were not slave-owners for every soldier who had slaves of his own. The truth is that the slave-owners carried through the secession movement, while the brunt of the fighting fell upon the "poor whites," who had nothing in the world to gain if the great planters won.

Hitherto the advocates of prohibition in the South have conducted their campaign on a non-partisan basis, Democrats and Republicans working together harmoniously. But there has been of late in several States an evident drift toward carrying the question into politics and organizing a separate party on this issue. The first important movement in this direction has just been made in West Virginia. The advocates of the prohibition policy met at Grafton last week, and, after an animated discussion, decided in favor of a third party by a vote of about two to one. The opponents of separate action immediately withdrew, and will seek to continue the fight on the old lines, but the majority are earnest in their new departure, and strong enough to make an important diversion. There seems no doubt that the Democrats will profit by the third-party movement. While both of the old parties have contributed to the ranks of the prohibitionists, they have drawn most largely from the Republicans, and, as has always happened in the North, the Democratic prohibitionists are most likely to fall back into their old party relations when election comes. For some time past the Republicans have apparently stood a good chance of carrying West Virginia, but a vigorous prohibition party, chiefly recruited from their ranks, would put an end to such hopes.

The recent decision of Attorney-General Garland regarding the eligibility of Indians for the position of postmaster reinforces arguments that were strong enough already, for Congressional action to put an end to the present anomalous relations of the red man to the country. Among the seventy-five postmasters in Indian Territory are a number of Indians, who for all that appears have discharged their duties to the satisfaction of the people and the Government. The question seems never before to have been raised whether Indians might not properly hold such offices, but Mr. Garland was recently called upon for an opinion, and he decided against the practice. He bases his ruling upon the grounds that an Indian who is a member of a tribe cannot take the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Government so long as this relation continues, and that the fact that an Indian cannot be held upon his bond further disqualifies him. Accepting this as good law, it shows the necessity of legislation which shall place the red man as nearly as possible on the same plane as the white and the black man. Mr. Cleveland's remark in his inaugural address that the education and civilization of the Indians should be promoted "with a view to their ultimate citizenship" shows that the advocates of a sound policy may count upon the support of the Executive in this matter.

An incidental effect of the change in the postal unit of weight which took effect yesterday, illustrates the curious complexity of business relations, and the unsuspected consequences which may follow a new step in legislation. The half-ounce limit has rendered it impossible to use heavy paper in writing a letter of any considerable length without its requiring double postage, and this fact has made the mass of people use the lighter grades

of paper in correspondence. Now that heavy paper and a thicker envelope may be employed without coming anywhere near the single rate limit, there will be a strong tendency toward their more general use, modified, of course, by the greater cost. The manufacturers of heavy writing paper are already congratulating themselves upon a "boom" in their business at the expense of the makers of lighter grades; and while they may be disappointed in its extent, the effect will probably be marked enough to be perceptible in the trade. With the adoption of the 2-cent stamp and the ounce limit, postal rates are placed on the same basis in the United States as in England. But two more changes in the matter of rates remain to be made. One is the reduction of the charge for "drop" letters from 2 cents to 1, in favor of which without further delay much may be said. The other is more remote, and should be postponed until the country is more thoroughly settled and the present system of carrying and delivering the mails has been perfected; but it is safe to predict that the youth of to-day will live to see the time when a letter will be transported across the continent for a single cent.

James D. Fish has been sentenced to an imprisonment of ten years, the full penalty of the law, and there is no respectable person in the city who will say that the decree is too severe. Judge Benedict's plain words in denying the motion for a new trial, concerning the nature of loans as distinguished from fraud, set forth Fish's offence in its true light. He was a robber and a swindler of the boldest and most calculating type. His pretence that he was deceived by Ward was absurd on its face, and was proved to be false by all his dealings with him. They were a pair of thieves who were working harmoniously together to cheat everybody who could be induced to trust them.

We believe there is now no doubt that Mr. Gladstone does not mean to retire at present from public life, and does mean to lead the Liberals in the coming campaign. Moreover, his health is not only good but very good, and his intellectual keenness as great as ever; so that the contest in the fall will probably be fully as lively as that in 1879. There seem at present to be strong signs of a competitor between the two parties in the matter of concessions to the Irish. It now appears very certain that Mr. Gladstone on this subject sympathized with the Radical wing of the Cabinet; but his loyalty to Lord Spencer, who is one of his warmest admirers, compelled him to stand by him in asking for more coercion. Lord Hartington stood with Spencer, and indeed he differs from Chamberlain and Dilke in so many points that there are grave doubts as to whether he will ever be able to work with them again in a Cabinet. Chamberlain has written an article suggesting a remedy for the growing incapacity of Parliament to deal with local questions, in the shape of elected local assemblies sitting in Dublin, Edinburgh, and some place in Wales, for the transaction of local business, which shows how rapidly public opinion has been tending toward some process of decentralization.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

(WEDNESDAY, June 24, to TUESDAY, June 30, 1885, inclusive.)

DOMESTIC.

H. C. BURCHARD, Director of the Mint, who somewhat doubted whether he would make a contest with the Administration on the subject of his resignation, has refused to resign, relying upon the special law which created his office to retain him; for he does not believe that the Senate, where he has many friends, will approve of the charges which may be presented as a cause for his removal. It is believed that the main charge upon which Secretary Manning will rely is that Director Burchard, in the exercise of his discretion as to the monthly purchases of bullion for the coinage of the standard silver dollar, might have bought it cheaper. As to that there will naturally be great differences of opinion.

President Cleveland on Saturday suspended Mr. Burchard and appointed James B. Kimball, of Pennsylvania, in his stead. The change will take effect July 1. Dr. Kimball is a Professor of Economic Geology in the Lehigh University, a mining engineer and metallurgist by profession.

The President made the following important appointments on Saturday: Edward L. Hedden to be Collector of Customs for the District of New York; Hans S. Beattie to be Surveyor of Customs, New York; Silas W. Burt to be Naval Officer of Customs, New York. The term of Naval Officer Graham would not expire until 1887, but he is suspended in mid-term because the President believes that sound public policy requires a reorganization of the whole customs service at New York.

Edward L. Hedden was born in New York city in 1828. From 1859 until last year he was a partner in the shipping-house of Wetmore, Cryder & Co., and for thirty-five years conducted the Custom-house business of the firm. He is Vice-President of the North River Bank and a director in several insurance companies. He has always been a Democrat in politics. He was recommended to the President for the appointment by Edward Cooper, Gen. John B. Woodward, John E. Develin, Daniel Drake Smith, J. Pierrepont Morgan, Charles S. Smith, E. T. Tefft, of Tefft, Weller & Co.; John S. Crane; Bates, Reed & Cooley; J. T. Low, R. T. Woodward, John P. Paulison, President of the Sun Mutual Insurance Company; Hubert O. Thompson, H. B. Claflin & Co., and others.

Col. Silas W. Burt is fifty-five years of age, a graduate of Union College, and was appointed Deputy Naval Officer at this port in 1869. His appointment as Naval Officer by President Hayes in 1878, to succeed A. B. Cornell, was the first important promotion in the Federal service under the rules of civil-service reform. His management of the Naval Office was upon strictly business principles, without the slightest regard to political considerations. When Colonel Burt's term as Naval Officer expired in March, 1883, President Arthur nominated him as Chief Examiner of the United States Civil-Service Commission, but the appointment was declined. In the same year he was appointed Chief Examiner of the Civil-Service Commission of this State, and accepted the office, which he has since filled with much credit. Originally a Republican, Colonel Burt, it is understood, supported Cleveland for Governor in 1882, while in the last campaign he was a strong supporter of the Democratic national ticket.

H. S. Beattie is the Secretary of the County Democracy organization and is also Secretary of the Amsterdam Club. He is about thirty-five years of age, and is a lawyer by profession. He is said to be a man of good executive ability.

An executive notice was issued from the State Department at Washington on Thursday,

announcing that a temporary diplomatic agreement had been entered into between the Government of the United States and the Government of Great Britain in relation to the fishing privileges which were granted by the fishery clauses of the Treaty of Washington. These privileges, which would otherwise have terminated with the treaty clauses on July 1, may continue to be enjoyed by the citizens and subjects of the two countries throughout the season of 1885.

Secretary Whitney is engaged in a searching inquiry into every bureau of the Navy Department. He is proceeding slowly, and has called to his assistance the most expert accountants and engineers.

The statement telegraphed from London, on the authority of the Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, that the appointment of Mr. Kelley to be Minister to Austria had been withdrawn, was officially denied in Washington on Monday.

United States Minister Francis has been instructed to postpone his departure from Vienna for America. This is taken as indicating that Mr. Kelley will be withdrawn from the Austrian mission.

Mr. S. L. Phelps, United States Minister to Peru, died at Lima on Wednesday.

The fiscal Government year closed on Tuesday. The Treasury statement has not yet been issued, but the following are approximate figures: The total receipts for the fiscal year will be about \$9,000,000 below the estimates. The customs receipts have been \$181,000,000, instead of \$185,000,000; the internal revenue receipts \$112,000,000 instead of \$115,000,000; and the miscellaneous receipts, \$28,000,000 instead of \$30,000,000, which were the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury in his annual report. The total receipts are thus \$321,000,000 instead of \$330,000,000. The expenditures of the Government, which were estimated at \$290,000,000 for the year, will in round numbers be \$310,000,000. The reduction of the public debt for the month will be about \$10,000,000, which will make a total debt reduction for the fiscal year of \$63,000,000, as against \$101,000,000 for the last fiscal year.

S. W. Talmadge has prepared his monthly crop report and second estimate on the probable wheat yield of the United States for 1885. The estimate shows the probable yield of spring wheat 121,000,000 bushels, winter wheat 210,000,000 bushels; total spring and winter 331,000,000 bushels. From these figures it appears that the crop of 1885 compared with 1884 shows a shortage in winter wheat of 160,000,000 bushels, spring wheat 22,000,000 bushels; total shortage, spring and winter, 182,000,000 bushels.

Mr. Stephen B. Elkins has sent a letter to the Land Office denying that he is now or ever was an owner in the Maxwell grant.

Trouble is threatened at the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian reservations, Indian Territory. Ten troops of cavalry and six companies of infantry have been massed at Reno.

Reports come in from the Delaware Bend of Indian Territory that five more horse-thieves have been lynched. The hanging of twelve others was recently reported.

General Crook has started on an Indian campaign in the Sierra Madre. It is unofficially stated that the campaign will be conducted as follows: General Crook, with scouts and infantry, will enter the Sierra Madre Mountains and endeavor to kill or capture Geronimo and his followers. Should they escape him and attempt to return to the reservation in Arizona or New Mexico, they will be intercepted by cavalry, which will be stationed along the line. Troops will camp at different water-holes along the line between Fort Huachuca and Silver Creek, so that the entire line will be guarded.

A courier who has arrived at Fort Bowie, Ariz., from the troops in the field in Mexican

territory, brings despatches from Captain Crawford, in the mountains southeast of Apulo. The courier says that on June 23 the scouts and troops struck the camp of the Chiricahuas and killed one buck and captured fifteen women and children, five horses, and a quantity of supplies.

In an interview Congressman N. D. Hill, of Ohio, is quoted as saying that the Democrats of Ohio are opposed to the Civil-Service Law almost to a man; that they regard it as a fraud on the public; that they believe in the right of the people to change every officer in the Government at the time prescribed by the Constitution; that he has heard many Democratic members of Congress say they would not vote a dollar to pay the expenses of the Commission, and that he felt that way himself.

Bids amounting to \$2,000,000 were received for the \$1,000,000 2½ per cent. Niagara Park bonds, proposals for which were opened by the Comptroller at Albany on Thursday. There being no bids above par, the Comptroller awarded \$40,000 of the bonds to the United States Deposit Fund, \$60,000 to the Common-School Fund, and \$900,000 to the Canal-Debt Sinking Fund. In order to provide sinking-fund moneys to purchase the Niagara bonds the Comptroller has sold large amounts of United States 4½ per cent. bonds, which, at the price paid, netted the State only 2¼ per cent.

Reviewing the two weeks which General Grant has spent at Mt. McGregor, Dr. Douglas said on Tuesday: "His life has been prolonged by the invigorating air here instead of the great heat of New York. The disease has progressed in the natural way, which is one of increasing debility. Now, if you ask me when the end will probably be, I cannot tell; none can tell. He grows weaker and weaker, and at last the point of exhaustion will be reached."

John McCullough, the tragedian, has been placed in Bloomingdale Asylum.

At the trial in the Court of General Sessions of this city of Yseult Dudley for shooting Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, the jury on Tuesday rendered a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity.

The Harvard Freshmen defeated the Columbia Freshmen in an eight-oared boat race at New London, Conn., on Thursday, by ten lengths. Time, 12:22; distance, two miles straightaway.

The Yale-Harvard University boat race at New London, Conn., on Friday, was won by Harvard by fifteen lengths. Time, 25:15½, four miles straightaway.

FOREIGN.

The members of the Gladstone Ministry went to Windsor Castle on Wednesday and delivered up the seals of office. Soon after they had retired, the members of the new Ministry arrived, and went through the ceremony of accepting office from the Queen and receiving the seals.

The official announcement of the installation of the new Ministry was made in the *Gazette* on Friday. The first formal Cabinet meeting was held on that day.

Writs for the reflection of the new British Ministers were issued on Wednesday. The Duke of Marlborough is organizing opposition to the reflection of his brother, Lord Randolph Churchill, for Woodstock.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon Mr. Gladstone read the correspondence between himself and the Marquis of Salisbury relating to the recent deadlock in the Cabinet, which was conducted through the medium of the Queen. The letters of Mr. Gladstone convey to the new Government the assurances of a general support on the part of the Liberals. The ex-Premier, however, throughout the whole correspondence, declined to make any specific pledges.

In the House of Lords on Thursday afternoon the new Lord High Chancellor, Sir

Hardinge Giffard, took his seat upon the wool-sack. It was announced that the bill providing an annuity of £6,000 for the Princess Beatrice upon her marriage with Prince Henry of Battenberg had received the royal assent. The Redistribution of Seats Bill and several other bills have also received the royal assent. The House of Commons on Thursday adjourned until the 6th of July.

The following additional appointments have been made under the Salisbury Government: Sir Matthew White Ridley, member of Parliament, Under Foreign Secretary; William L. Jackson, member of Parliament, Secretary to the Board of Trade; Baron Macdonald, Lord Advocate. Queen's Household—Viscount Lewisham, Vice-Chamberlain; Lord Arthur Hill, Comptroller; Viscount Folkestone, Treasurer; the Earl of Dunraven, Under Secretary for the Colonies; the Earl of Kintore and the Earl of Hopetoun, Lords-in-Waiting.

Queen Victoria has conferred a peerage upon Mr. Rowland Winn, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury in the new Ministry. His title is Baron Stoswald of Nostell. Sir Nathaniel de Rothschild has been raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Rothschild. He is the first Jew to receive this honor. The Queen has also conferred Knighthoods of the Garter upon the Marquis of Northampton and the Earl of Sefton; Baronies upon Viscount Powerscourt, Lord Henley, Sir Robert Collier, and Sir Arthur Hobhouse; and Baronetcies upon John Everett Millais, R.A., George F. Watts, R.A., Charles Tennant, M.P., and Thomas Thornhill, M.P. Mr. Watts has declined the honor.

Queen Victoria has bestowed the Order of St. Michael and St. George upon Sir Edward Malet, the British Ambassador at Berlin, and upon Lionel Sackville West, the British Minister at Washington. Messrs. John Morley and Villiers, members of Parliament, have declined to accept peerages. Professor Huxley will retire from his Government post in October on a yearly pension of £1,300.

Earl Spencer gave a farewell reception at Dublin Castle on Saturday. Crowds were present, and he was fairly well received on his road to the railway station through the streets.

A mass-meeting was held in Hyde Park, London, on Sunday afternoon, to protest against the amendment to the Reform Bill adopted by the House of Lords, which proposes to disqualify every voter who has received pauper medical relief for himself or family within a year of any election. There were seven stands for speakers, and fully 30,000 persons were present. Michael Davitt spoke against the proposition on behalf of Ireland.

M. Waddington, the French Ambassador to England, at a conference with Lord Salisbury on Saturday, renewed the demand that an early date be fixed for the withdrawal of the British troops from Egypt, and suggested the reconstruction of the Egyptian army of mixed Egyptian and Turkish mercenaries. He also suggested a change in the administration from the Khedive downward. Lord Salisbury merely said that Egyptian affairs were under consideration.

Lord Salisbury is negotiating with the Porte for the occupation of Egypt by Turkish troops, the cost to be paid by the Egyptian Treasury. It is believed that England wants to retain full control of the civil administration of the country.

The orders to the camel corps at Cairo to embark have been rescinded. It was reported on Monday that the British Government meditated reoccupying Dongola.

The Berlin *Post*, in an article supposed to have been inspired by Prince Bismarck, hints at a desire on the part of Germany for an alliance with England.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg*, in an editorial article, expresses respect and sympathy for Mr. Gladstone. Referring to the new British Cabinet, the *Journal* says: "Russia,

with respect to her own interests, and in view of her conciliatory policy, regards with calmness the accession of a new ministry."

Mr. Gladstone, in a recent letter to the Midlothian Liberal Association, says he did not think he should again ask to be returned to Parliament, but that events had occurred which rendered it necessary that he should not imperil the unity and efficiency of the party. This is tantamount to a declaration that he will remain the leader of the Liberals. This letter was the political feature in London on Tuesday. The Liberals are jubilant over Mr. Gladstone's decision.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain contributes an unsigned article to the *Fortnightly Review* on Irish reforms. He proposes that national councils be established, to sit at Dublin, Edinburgh, and, if the Welsh desire a council, at Cardiff, the members of the councils to be chosen directly by the ratepayers or elected by the county boards. The councils, he proposes, shall legislate and administer educational works, the poor law, and all measures not of an imperial character. The article is creating much discussion in London.

The 'Diaries of Gordon at Khartum' were published in London, on Wednesday. They cover the period from September 10 to December 14, and fill 395 pages. The diaries are a strange medley, varying in style, manner, and subject from page to page. One page will be an abstruse statistical discussion of the social and political aspect of the Egyptian problem. Then follows, perhaps, a page reading like a Biblical commentary, with many Scriptural quotations giving Gordon's peculiar views. Then suddenly will come a bit of reminiscence of life in England or elsewhere, or a story about some Arab child. One of his most characteristic utterances is: "I own to having been very insubordinate to her Majesty's Government; but it is my nature. I cannot help it. I know if I was chief I would never employ myself, for I am an incorrigible. I am not going down to history as the cause of this expedition. I decline the imputation. I came to deliver the garrison."

General Gordon's private Chinese diary is announced for August.

The chairman of the Cobden Club has issued an announcement concerning the British policy of free trade, with reference to the possibility of its disturbance by the Conservatives. He declares that, as the club has been warned that the principles of Cobden are threatened, it has taken measures to resist firmly any and all attacks upon them by the fair-traders and protectionists. Continuing, the chairman says: "We are not surprised at the attempts of the landed interests to retax food. The whole feudal land system of England is tumbling to pieces. A great number of the Salisbury Ministry have already advocated interference with the present fiscal system of England. The whole world is certain to eventually adopt Cobden's principles, which are now scoffed at by many. The tariffs of protectionist countries benefit the few to the detriment of the many, and by God's providence they will not be generally adopted."

Charles Warren Adams and Mildred Coleridge, daughter of the Lord Chief Justice of England, were married in London on Wednesday. A maternal uncle was the officiating clergyman. The marriage was private. Lord Coleridge was asked by his daughter to attend her wedding. He refused.

It was officially announced in Rome on Wednesday that Rev. Dr. Walsh, President of Maynooth College, had been appointed by the Pope Archbishop of Dublin, to succeed Cardinal Archbishop McCabe.

The Pope has issued an order directing that the Ultramontane newspapers published in Rome maintain a friendly attitude toward the Italian Government. This action of the Pope implies an important change of policy on the part of the Vatican.

Signor Depretis has completed the formation of a new Italian Cabinet. It is believed that he will follow the line of foreign policy marked out by Signor Mancini.

A despatch from Teheran received in London on Monday stated that the rebel leader, Isa Khan, one of the sympathizers of the deposed Amir, Ayub Khan, at the head of a large number of followers crossed the border from Turkestan into Afghanistan, and marched on the city of Khanabad, which he captured after a desperate struggle, putting its defenders to flight. The rebels then looted the place, and among the plunder was £1,000,000 belonging to the Amir. This raid has caused intense excitement throughout Afghanistan. The Afghans openly accuse the Russians of having conspired at and planned it. This news caused great excitement throughout London. The Foreign Office telegraphed Lord Dufferin for the fullest information with regard to the affair, and should it be proved that the Russian officials are in any way implicated, a vigorous remonstrance will, it is said, at once be made through the British representative at St. Petersburg. The reports have not been confirmed.

A despatch from Teheran states that 1,000 Persians are at work constructing the Trans-Caspian Railway. Warlike preparations are still being continued by Russia. Rumors are in circulation in the bazaars of Teheran that war will probably occur after the Trans-Caspian Railway is completed to Merv in Turkomania, and about 300 miles north of Herat, in Afghanistan. The Russians are bridging the River Murghab, on the confines of Afghanistan. Eight hundred Russian infantry soldiers are at Old Sarakhs.

Advices from Tashkend, in Asiatic Russia, show that the rebellion against Chinese rule in Chinese Turkestan is spreading. In Kashgar the laborers have risen.

The Spanish Government organ, *Estadarte*, says: "It is believed that the Cuban treaty negotiated by Minister Foster has proved completely unacceptable. The new American Government has from the first shown an improper spirit in the matter. It is well. Let it be annulled."

The Government of Mexico, being financially embarrassed, has announced that all taxes shall be paid in cash or notes of the National Bank of Mexico; that for the purpose of retiring from circulation notes and bills constituting the floating debt, and to cover pending obligations, the Federal Treasury shall issue Treasury bonds of the value of \$25,000,000 at 6 per cent. interest, payable in twenty-five years, and that all salaries of public officers shall be reduced from 10 to 50 per cent. It is also regarded probable that railway subsidies will be suspended.

The issue of bonds by the Mexican Government has made the money market tighter than ever. The National Bank and many brokers have stopped all discount business. The commercial outlook is very ominous, and a number of houses heretofore in good standing are reported to be on the verge of bankruptcy. The official estimates of the Mexican Government for 1885-'86 reach \$39,900,000. The receipts will not be sufficient to cover this expenditure. Only extreme measures of economy will enable it to meet current expenses. Great interest is felt in the promised plan for the adjustment of the English debt. It has leaked out that the Government will soon publish the report of the special commission on adjustment, advocating a recognition of the debt.

The revolutionary troops of General Caceres in Peru have completely disbanded.

A report was recently received by General Wolsley that Olivier Pain died of fever while in the camp of El Mahdi, where he is said to have been held as a prisoner. Another report is, that he was murdered by Arabs paid by Colonel Schmidt, of the Egyptian service, to secure compromising papers which Pain was bringing from Khartum to Cairo.

SOME STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

WE said a good deal during the late Presidential canvass about the theory put forward, and indeed acted on, by a large number of Mr. Blaine's supporters, that there was only one party in the United States fit to be trusted with the administration of the Government; the other, though comprising half the voting population, being composed of "traitors and rebels." This, as we pointed out at the time, was a confession to all the world that the Republican experiment on this continent was a failure. Any government to which half the people, or indeed any considerable portion of the people, living under it, is hostile, must of course, on the theory which Americans have always applied to all other countries, be held to have missed its mark. The American theory is, and has always been, that the only true tests of the goodness of a government are the loyalty and devotion of those who live under it. A government which, after a fair trial, has not secured these things, has always been held by American publicists to be in some sort a tyranny or usurpation. Consequently, the reason given by the bulk of the Blainites for not letting the Democrats into power was really a more shocking charge against American institutions than any of their foreign enemies have ever ventured to make.

This was not the whole of it, however. In saying that the Democrats were unfit to be trusted with power, not simply because they were dishonest or incapable, but because they hated the Government and would like to overturn it, the Blainites also promulgated the doctrine that you can carry on a party Government with one party only, contrary to the generally received idea that a party Government requires two parties, one in power, and the other in opposition, but fit and eager to take power when called on by the voters. A party Government carried on by one party only, however, has never before been seen or tried, and it puzzled plain people to say in what respect it differed from a despotism or an oligarchy, or in what way it could be punished for corruption or malfeasance in office. An irremovable ruler, whether a king, or a clique, or a cabal, has hitherto been supposed by Republicans to be one of the worst forms of government—that under which most irremediable evils are apt to arise. It was, therefore, startling to be told that it had already, in the very first century of the Republic, been set up in Washington; that no matter how much we might be displeased with the doings of the Republican party, we were bound to continue the same set or nearly the same set of men in power, from one year to another, for an indefinite period; and that we were to trust to their inherent virtue to correct their own wrong doing.

What reason there was for expecting this system to succeed in the United States any more than anywhere else; or why American politicians, when intrusted with places and salaries with the assurance that no faults of their own would suffice to expel them from them, were expected to behave better than any other politicians had ever done under similar circumstances—was never explained.

Recently another announcement has been

made, by politicians of both parties, which is for patriotic Americans hardly less startling than the two already mentioned. It is that the interest of American voters in politics is kept up altogether, or almost altogether, by the prospect of a "clean sweep" after the election—that is, the transfer of all the offices, high or low, to a new set of persons. We are given to understand, in fact, by persons calling themselves careful observers of the American character and manners, both in society and politics, that the bulk of Americans really care nothing, or next to nothing, about questions of government popularly so called—that is, about changes in legislation or in administration, about war or peace, about taxation or education; that they have no longer, if they ever had, an ideal state in their mind's eye to which they would like to see their own country approximate; that their main motive in going to the polls is to keep certain persons out of or put others in possession of a number of small places, without any reference to the manner in which the duties of these places are discharged. If elections cause no changes in these places, we are told, or if the changes are made without reference to services rendered on the stump or at the polls during the canvass, the American people will rapidly lose their interest in politics, and, in fact, gradually cease to vote altogether, and, if we may so speak, let their Government go by default into the hands of any one who likes to clutch it.

The melancholy contrast which this prospect presents to the state of things which has for so many years been witnessed in monarchical England, is enough to fill every lover of republican institutions with dismay. In England there are no offices but Cabinet offices and about a dozen others, all high, to be contended for at an election. No matter how it goes, it creates no vacancies in the Post-office, but in the Postmaster-Generalship. It places no Custom-house offices at the disposal of the Ministry, nor consulships, nor foreign missions. In fact, nobody but about twenty or thirty politicians of high rank expects to get or use either office or salary by the result of the popular vote, and candidates for Parliament are so tied up by law as to their expenditures and promises at elections, that the smallest or most indirect bribe or unlawful outlay insures the unseating and possibly the imprisonment of the person guilty of it; and the case is not triable by a partisan committee of the House, but by the judges of the higher courts. Nevertheless, the whole vote is invariably thrown at an English general election, and is cast amid the fiercest excitement, stimulated to fever heat by hundreds of the best speakers in the country. Money, too, is forthcoming in abundance for lawful expenses, and not from men who expect foreign missions in return for it if the party is successful, but from men who want to see their ideas triumph in legislation and administration. Now what does all this mean? Is it really true, as the Life-long Democrats, and the Anti-Humbugs, and the Veteran Observers, and the Prominent Politicians, and the Workers say, that republican institutions have, in one century, killed popular interest in politics; and that all the people seek in voting is the excitement of a fresh distribution of small places—or, in other

words, that their electoral contests are like a boy's game of jackstones, in which a little dexterity, mixed with a little chance, decides the disposition of trumpery little stakes?

THE ENGLISH RADICALS AND THE IRISH NATIONALISTS.

THE abuse of Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Chamberlain by the extreme Nationalist organs, such as the *United Irishman*, for planning a trip into Ireland for the purpose of studying home rule on the spot, is an excellent sign of the times. Irish statesmen of the calibre of the editor of the *United Irishman*, and, in fact, of most of those who serve under Parnell, are well aware that anything in the shape of home rule would throw a considerable body, if not the whole of them, out of work. Nothing in the Nationalist agitation in the House of Commons has been more remarkable than its failure to develop talent among the Parnellites. Parnell himself, though not a great orator, has shown political capacity of a very high order, and, indeed, has proved himself a genuine leader of men. He understands well the needs and peculiarities of the two races with which he is connected—the English, which he has to combat, and to which he belongs, and the Irish, of which he has constituted himself the champion. His oratory is of exactly the kind which Englishmen cannot bear to hear from an Irish agitator—cold, cutting, incisive, and businesslike; and then he has acquired in a remarkable degree the art of exasperating them by his silence. There never was a speech delivered in the House of Commons so effective, as an answer, as Parnell's refusal to take any notice of Forster's furious and labored attempt to convict him of complicity with the Dublin assassinations. A few words of studied contempt was all the notice he bestowed on it, and it made poor Mr. Forster seem somewhat ridiculous, while the English public got very angry on finding that it made no difference to Parnell whether they thought him a murderer or not.

But there is little to be said for the talents of his followers in the House. One of them, Mr. Justin McCarthy, is an excellent writer both of history and fiction, but he can hardly be said to have made his mark in the House of Commons. Another, Mr. Sexton, is an orator of no mean powers, but his is not the kind of oratory which compels hostile audiences to listen, and it ordinarily empties the House very rapidly. Another, Mr. Healy, is a man whose bodily presence is so weak, and his manners so bad, that when he came into the House he was greatly underrated. He soon showed, however, that he was a very skilful Parliamentarian, and a very keen debater of bills in the Committee of the Whole. But he acts in the House like a savage, and seems to take delight in committing outrages on what all civilized men regard as the decencies of legislative bodies.

Of the others there is little to be said, except that they have generally obtained entrance to public life through their violence of language and willingness to pay Mr. Parnell implicit obedience. They would probably hardly hold their own if concessions were made to the

Irish touching local self-government, which would call for other talents than howling and denunciation. In fact, there could not possibly be a better illustration of the complete divorce of Irish politics from anything which can be called business or affairs, than the kind of men whom the Nationalist constituencies send to the House of Commons. Men who have too much self-respect to play the part either of mere disturbers, or blind followers of a despotic leader, not only will not go, but are not needed. There is no business, properly so called, in the House of Commons for Irishmen to do. They have no control of Irish affairs, and on English affairs their opinions count for nothing. At home there is just as little field for political capacity as in London. The police is in the hands of officers appointed by the Crown, generally Englishmen. The municipal affairs the Irish have control of, but Irish cities are mostly impoverished boroughs, from which energy and enterprise have long fled. The county government covers the great bulk of Irish local affairs, including the greater portion of the local taxes, but about this the taxpayers have no more to say than about the taxation of India. The counties are governed—that is, the local taxes are voted, collected, and expended—by a grand jury selected from among leading landholders by the High Sheriff, who is appointed by the Crown. Consequently there is in Ireland for the bulk of the people no school of politics, and there never has been one. If the concession of home rule should set one up, however, it is very certain that the present Irish Parliamentary party would undergo great modifications. A demand for men with some constructive talent would rapidly arise, and the roaring editors and platform vituperators who now fight the Irish battle, would hardly satisfy it.

This battle now seems nearly over. The inability of Parliament to deal adequately with local affairs is acknowledged by everybody, and its failure is more flagrant in Ireland than elsewhere, because Englishmen and Scotchmen know and care so little about Irish local affairs. The only difficulty to be overcome is the difficulty of satisfying English Radicals that any representative governing bodies in Ireland, armed with any power, however restricted, would not immediately go to work to provide the machinery of National independence and enter into alliances with foreign Powers. The ease with which this problem has been solved here has as yet made comparatively little impression on them, owing to the fact that they ascribe it to our having a written Constitution, and a Supreme Court to interpret it.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.

"O ANAHUAC! cloudless are thy skies; thy soil is carpeted with flowers, thy lakes mirror the blue of heaven, thine air is loaded with the perfume of the jasmine." So declare the patriotic dithyrambs of Mexican poetry. Looking only to the natural advantages of the great central table-land, one might think the poets within the truth. But, unfortunately, vile man has placed himself in juxtaposition with the pleasing prospect, with the result of producing on this favored site a city whose death-

rate is probably higher than that of any city of its size in the world. The Board of Health of the Mexican capital makes weekly contributions to literature in the shape of returns of deaths, which let one down in a very depressing manner from the heights to which he has been carried by the poems; for instance, taking the last two weeks of April and the first two of May, of this year, the number of deaths reported to the Board is respectively 293, 300, 300, 273. Now, the exact population of the city is unknown, the census being notoriously untrustworthy. Estimates vary by 75,000, yet taking the highest, 300,000, the figures given leave the death-rate of Mexico during the season of greatest mortality at about twice that of New York in August. It is, besides, to be remembered that according to the belief of prominent Mexican physicians, the deaths reported to the authorities are below the actual fact, owing to the lax enforcement of the laws governing such matters. It is not strange that the Mexican newspapers are beginning to call the city "The Great Necropolis." In an article under that heading the *Correo del Lunes* recently said: "Undisguised terror is caused by these processions of the dead which daily defile through the streets of Mexico. To be alive here is getting to be a startling phenomenon. It may be a very short time, unless energetic remedial measures are adopted, before the capital will have to be moved to another location." Making due allowance for Spanish exaggeration, a sufficiently startling residuum of truth must remain.

It strikes one as surprising to find so prominent a place assigned to lung diseases among the causes of death. This seems inconsistent with the climate of perpetual summer which Mexico enjoys. Yet 20 per cent. of the deaths in the weeks referred to were due to consumption and pneumonia. All authorities agree, however, that almost the whole number of the victims of these diseases is found among the abjectly poor. Their homes are damp and dark basements and hovels. They never have fires for heating purposes, and are cut off from the sunshine which is indispensable to health in Mexico. Of course, the cold is never severe, but there are chilly nights and damp days, just fitted to cause colds, which only need the aggravating conditions of the homes and habits of the poor to develop them fatally. There are months in Mexico when colds are more universal than at the worst seasons of the year in New England. Opera singers complain of the constant coughing in their Mexican audiences, often so great as entirely to drown their finer notes.

Still more unexpected is it to find malarial diseases so fatal in a city at an elevation above the sea level of 7,500 feet. Of the deaths for the period cited 33 per cent., however, were caused by typhoid and other forms of gastric fever. This puts us on the track of the principal cause of the high death-rate of Mexico. It is a city without drainage. Its site is a bowl of the mountains. There is really no outlet to the shallow, marshy lakes whose surface is nearly on a level with the streets of the city. Yet, with true Mexican inconsequence, the capital has a system of sewers as if there were fall enough to drain them. But their contents

scarcely move—during a large part of the year they do not move at all; hence they are in effect only a system of cesspools, ingeniously devised to make the disposal of the sewage the worst possible. The little that is washed out by the heavy rains is simply added to the filth of Tezcoco, the so called lake whose diminishing area and close proximity to the city cause the gases of decomposition, which are so rapidly generated under a vertical sun, to be a prime source of infection to the inhabitants of the capital. The only thing which prevents a plague is the extreme rarefaction of the air, which seems to hinder the propagation of the germs of disease. As it is, typhoid prevails the year round, being especially virulent at the end of the dry season, when the heat is the greatest.

It is not due to Mexican want of enterprise alone that the chief city of Spanish America should thus be left to be the lurking-place of disease. The difficulties in the way of applying an efficacious remedy are tremendous. Such is the nature of the plain upon which Mexico is built, such the conformation of the land and the contour of the mountains about it, that a vast system of tunnelling and canalization would be necessary to create a fall sufficient to drain the valley; and before the city can be drained, the valley must be. A few years ago, at the request of the city authorities, an association of American engineers and contractors prepared and submitted plans for the work. The city fathers read with interest until they came to the estimated cost—\$9,000,000. Thereupon they reflected that this sum was about a third of the entire revenue of the general Government, and wisely concluded that it would be rash to pledge the credit of the city for such an amount; so the matter was dropped. Meanwhile, the Academy of Medicine has offered a prize for the best explanation of "the insupportably fetid condition of the atmosphere," and the Common Council, not to be outdone, has also offered a prize for the same thing, promising, in addition, to the successful contestant, the freedom of the city. This is a fair indication of what may be expected from the Mexicans themselves. Yet it also suggests the strength of the conviction that a remedy of some sort must be devised. San Luis Potosi, or some other city, may wrest the commercial supremacy from the capital, unless life there is made more safe and tolerable.

Two rival plans are advocated among engineers. One of them is argued for by an American engineer, Mr. E. H. Spaulding, in the columns of the *Mexican Financier*. He would utilize the old Spanish cut of Nochistongo, which, he thinks, by deepening and extension, might be made adequate to the drainage of the valley. This cut, worked upon at different times for 180 years, is an excavation 168 feet deep and thirteen miles long. It was undertaken originally to furnish an outlet for the overflow of the lakes, which used to flood the city disastrously. In this it was but partially successful. It has already been put to use by American capital, as it is along the side of this work of the Spanish viceroys that the Central Railroad finds its way into the valley of Mexico. Mr. Spaulding proposes to push a great canal through this existing excavation, to the

River Tula, flowing off to the Pacific, and in this way secure a fall for the drainage of the valley and city. The only objection which he can see to the plan is the immense first cost of the work. But Mr. H. Rudston Read, of the Institute of Civil Engineers of England, declares that this remedy would be worse than the disease. He maintains that the excavations necessary for the construction of the main canal and the readjustment of the sewers would cause a pestilence in the city at the very outset, and that, on the best showing, all that would be accomplished would be some relief to the city at the expense of the contiguous towns, which would be poisoned, he asserts, by the sewage poured into their water supply. The plan he prefers is that first proposed by the late General Scott, of the Royal Academy, viz., the dry-sewage system. He would provide separate drains for disposing of the rainfall, and then disinfect and deodorize the sewage at various points near the outskirts of the city, to which the contents of the sewers could be brought through pneumatic tubes. This plan, Mr. Read argues, would be at once the cheapest and most effective. Still, that there would be need of an enormous outlay, he admits. It seems doubtful if anything thorough will be done till the American interests in the city become so large as to insist upon better sanitary conditions. It may be that American capital will yet do the work.

It ought not to be inferred that there is especial danger to the health of tourists passing through Mexico City or spending some time there. With a moderate amount of caution in diet, and with daily exercise in the sunshine, the pervasive malaria may be defied. Its victims are found mainly among the dissipated, or those who are compelled to lead a closely confined life. Very much depends also upon the season of the year. The winter months are usually chosen for a visit to the South. All things considered, those months are the best and safest for seeing Mexico. Yet if one has to pass much time in-doors in the damp, cheerless, unwarmed, and unwarmed rooms of the hotels, he will be tempted to resolve with Hawthorne in Rome that, wherever he may hereafter spend his summers, he will always pass his winters at the North so as not to suffer from the cold.

JOHN HARVARD.

It has been reserved for a Harvard alumnus to remove the mystery surrounding the origin of John Harvard, from whom the University takes its name and dates its virtual beginning. Thirty years ago Mr. Henry Fitz-Gilbert Waters graduated at Cambridge, a simple A.B. At the commencement just passed, his Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of A.M., in recognition of the gratifying discovery of the facts about to be related. Master of the art of genealogical research Mr. Waters has certainly shown himself to be. But before giving our readers a glimpse of the difficulties he had to encounter, let us briefly state the result of his inquiries.

A thin pamphlet lies before us, denoting itself a reprint from the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for July: 'John Harvard and his Ancestry, by Henry F. Waters, A.B.' It contains ten wills and some other documents, and demonstrates beyond question that the Rev.

John Harvard was baptized November 29, 1607, in the parish of St. Savior's, Southwark, London. His father was Robert Harvard, who was buried in the Church of St. Savior's, August 24, 1625—a victim of the plague of that summer; his mother, Katherine Rogers, who died Katherine Yearwood, and was buried July 9, 1625. Their children were nine in number, and John Harvard was the fourth. On the list of baptisms his name was written 'John Harvyse, of Robt. a Butcher'; and it is characteristic of the orthographic confusion which the searcher must penetrate if at all by a sort of instinct, that the other children are set down as Harverde, Harverd, or Harvyse, indifferently—Harverde, however, leading off. These alternative spellings appear to have been common, for Mr. Waters cites the will of a vintner with sundry bequests to "Mrs. Herverd als Harvey, wife of Mr. Thomas Harverd als Harvey," and to "Richard Harverd als Harvey," both men being butchers, by the way; and another will making mention of "Robert Harvy als Harverde." "Harwar," "Harward," and "Harvard" stand for Mrs. Margaret Harvard, widow of Thomas (apparently an uncle of John Harvard), whose will is given by Mr. Waters.

This same Margaret appears to have been a Wallbank by first marriage, and the amount of remarrying in this little circle is another cause of the genealogist's perplexities, albeit sometimes the source of the surest inductions. Take Rose Reason, for example. This charming woman (if we may judge her person by her name) is named in the will of John Harvard's mother as her sister. More than a year ago Mr. Waters had made note of the will of William Ward, goldsmith, of the parish of St. Savior's (1624), for its reference to "my brother Mr. Robert Harverd." "My said loving wife Roase Ward" is also mentioned in that instrument; but Mr. Waters had forgotten her when he stumbled upon the marriage of William Ward and Rose Rogers (1621) in the parish registers. From other indications he felt sure that the mother of John Harvard would turn out to be a Rogers, and he mentally associated Rose Rogers with Rose Reason. They prove to be one and the same, by virtue of a second marriage.

Katherine Rogers must likewise have been an attractive sort of person. Her first husband, Robert Harvard, seems to have been aware of it, for he "ordaynes" in his last testament "that my saide wife shall, with sufficient Suerties, within three moneths next after my decease, or at least before shee shalbe espoused or married agayne to any other, enter and become bound in the somme of one Thousand pounds," etc. This was toward the end of July, 1625, and on June 15, 1626, we have the will of John Elletson, cooper, who leaves a "loving wife Katherine Elletsonne." The cooper having in turn followed the way of the butcher and of all flesh, we come next upon the will of Richard Yearwood, of Southwark, grocer, who restores to his "well beloved wife" Katherine "all such household stuff and so much value in plate as she brought with her when I married her"—thus clearly implying a previous wedded condition. Moreover, to her he gives "her dwelling in all that part of my dwelling house wherein I do now live, so long time as she shall continue a widow and dwell in the same herself." We cannot record a fourth marriage on Katherine's part, for she survived her last husband barely three years, and on July 2, 1635, prepared her own will, of which she makes "my eldest sonne John Harvard Clarke" an heir and executor, and in which she speaks of property devised by the late John Elletson—thus furnishing the link between her three marriages. But Mr. Waters, who leaves nothing to inference, sought for and found the entry of the marriage of "John Ellison and Katherine Harvie."

In the following year, 1636, death claims the brother Thomas, a cloth worker and joint executor with John of their parent's will. His own, dated July 15, 1636, names John Harvard and the Rev. Nicholas Morton, pastor of St. Savior's, as executors, and the latter qualifies on May 5, 1637, with a reservation in favor of John Harvard's obtaining his commission whenever he seeks it—"cum venerit eam petitur." He was, then, absent for some reason, and at this point our cisatlantic knowledge of the gentle scholar begins. He had entered Magdalen College, Cambridge, England, as a Pensioner in 1627, and graduated A.B. in 1631 and A.M. in 1635, and had married Anne, daughter of the Rev. John Sadler, vicar of Patcham in Sussex, who describes her in his will of February 6, 1637, as the wife of "John Harvard Clarke." The son-in-law possibly awaited this event before emigrating to America, and now he desired to dispose of his property in England as a preliminary to his long journey. Perhaps the most brilliant stroke in Mr. Waters's investigations relates to this transaction, the existence of which was for him a pure piece of genealogical imagination. By the cordial aid of an English antiquarian friend, he was directed to "the Feet of Fines of the Hillary Term, 12th Charles I., County Surrey," in the Public Record Office, and here he found a transfer "de uno mesuagio et tribus Cotagijs cum p'tin in Parochia Sci Olavi in Southwarke," to John and Johanna Man by John and Anna Harvard; though in the Concord of Fines he failed to discover the customary signatures of the parties. Mr. Waters also presents us with the will of this John Man, referring to the "four houses or Tenements with thappurtenances ["p'tin," as above] thereunto belonging, situate in Bermondsey streete in the parish of St. Olave in Southwarke and County aforesaid which I purchased of one — Harbert"—the last indignity to this noble name which we shall exhibit.

This transaction bears date of February, 1636-37, and by May 5, as we have seen, on occasion of the probate of his brother's will, John Harvard was missing from England. In the interval he must have taken ship for the Bay Colony. In 1637 our non-conforming clergyman turns up at Charlestown, Mass., and, having been admitted a freeman in November, in 1638 he follows the fashion of his short-lived family and passes away at the early age of thirty-one, bequeathing to the college decreed by the General Court in 1636 half of his whole property and his entire library of 300 volumes—altogether equal in value to twice the amount originally voted by the Court. This determined the immediate opening of the college, and the choice of a designation for it.

Such is the interesting revelation which we owe to the masterly inquest conducted by Mr. Waters.

THE APACHE OUTBREAK.

NEW MEXICO, June 15.

THE recent outbreak of the Apaches from their reservation at San Carlos in Arizona, though a fatal surprise to many, was still not unlooked for. The censure inflicted upon General Crook after his very remarkable and successful campaign in the Sierra Madre—however unwise and unjust at that time—was based upon the possibility of such an occurrence, and actuated by a very legitimate dread of its results. The inhabitants of Northeastern Sonora, upon whom the Apaches have preyed so long, predicted the return of their mortal foes, well fed, well armed, and consequently in the best possible condition for murder and rapine, by the spring of 1885, and, sad to think, they missed the time only by one month!

It cannot be denied that the intentions of General Crook were excellent, and their execution a

masterpiece of daring, prudence, and knowledge of Indian nature. In engineering back to the reservation the most independent, most lawless and desperate fraction of the Apache tribe, without bloodshed, and without yielding to them one iota beyond what he originally designed to yield, he performed a feat unparalleled in the annals of Anglo-American Indian intercourse. The question, however, was whether, in thus acting, the distinguished commander of the Department of Arizona did not perhaps underestimate the fickleness of the Chiricahuas, or overestimate his ability to restrain them. For it is certain that in transplanting them to Arizona again, contrary to the wishes of a part of its inhabitants (including many of the peaceable Apaches themselves), General Crook assumed, or his action at least morally implied, the responsibility of keeping them on the reservation thereafter, and thus protecting the settlers from any subsequent damage from Indian lawlessness.

The Chiricahuas are a mongrel lot. As early as the beginning of the eighteenth century, the "Turkey Mountains" ("Chihuicahui," an Opata word, latterly corrupted into Chiricahui) of Southeastern Arizona became the favorite lair of the Apaches while ravaging Chihuahua, Sonora, the Sobaypuri (Pima) villages on the San Pedro, and around Tucson and even parts of the "Papageria." Their stay there became so permanent that a distinct band was evolved to which, from their habitual place of abode, the title of "Apaches-Chiricahuas" was given. But what with the introduction of female captives, and with straggling accessions from other groups of their tribe, who joined them for purposes of predation, the breed became sadly mixed. Nevertheless, the most distinguished man the Apaches ever produced, the celebrated "Chis" (erroneously called "Cachise"), was a legitimate Chiricahua.

Being constantly on the war-path, while the more northern Apaches slowly yielded to the pressure of increasing colonization by whites and of military surveillance—thus confining them to the reservation—the number of Chiricahuas began to decrease. By the death of Chis, they lost their talented leader, and the Southwest became rid of a terrible scourge. Reinforcements from the Gila and the Mimbres grew less and less; from being difficult to escape observation, it became dangerous, and finally ceased even to be legitimate in the eyes of Apaches themselves. The result was that only desperate men ventured to join the Chiricahuas—outlaws from the quieter groups, men who had every reason to hide away from their surroundings, and whom their surroundings both hated and feared. This hatred, as well as fear, occasioned conflicts on the reservation itself, whenever the Chiricahuas descended to recuperate there for a while, and finally developed into bitter enmity toward all of them for their extra-savage character, and mortal dread on account of their desperate violence.

When, in 1882, Gerónimo moved into Mexico with the Chiricahuas, reaching the Sierra del Carcay in spite of the vigorous pursuit of Lieutenant-Colonel Forsythe, and of the murderous conflict with the Mexican troops under Colonel García at "Los Alisos," he joined forces with the most southerly band the Apaches ever formed—the so-called "Janeros" under Juh. The Janeros slowly arose after 1684, and are an olla-podrida of Lipanes, Mescaleros, stragglers of other Apache fragments, of the original Indians living in Northwestern Chihuahua and Northeastern Sonora (the "Janos" and "Jocomes"), of renegade "Sumas" from El Paso del Norte, of scattering "Tobosos," of "Tarahumara," "Opata," and Spanish captives. To this neat little conglomerate the Chiricahuas were added, and the marriage of Juh's daughter with Gerónimo cemented

a union which, however, soon resulted in a quarrel; Juh being left alone with very few followers. After his death, these followers joined Gerónimo also, and the latter, himself a half-breed (son of a legitimate Chiricahua and a Mexican captive), repaired to San Carlos at the head of one of the worst miscegenated and therefore most dangerous hordes an Indian community ever beheld.

General Crook was certainly correct in believing that the reintegration of such a desperate crowd among their cognates would be looked upon by the latter with sufficient distrust and fear to make them useful as watchers and spies upon the former. He certainly could rely upon the peaceable Apaches "telling on" the Chiricahuas. Still, the latter have broken out again.

It is said that this outbreak was not premeditated. Color is given to this statement by the fact that Chiato, Gerónimo's aid and adjunct in previous raids, is not with him, whereas one or more of General Crook's former scouts have joined the renegades. Still, while it is of course impossible to disprove this assertion, and while the assumption that they ran away after a "jolly old drunk" and hid themselves, through fear of punishment, like naughty boys, is not altogether inconsistent with Indian nature, yet there are signs which rather point toward premeditation and the execution of a matured and well-organized plot. The making and wholesale imbibing of "Tisun" is not a mere purposeless carousal; it originally was, and still largely is, a religious practice, an act of superstition, initiating or terminating some important enterprise. It may, therefore, have been only a blind. Again, Gerónimo started with 133 persons, of whom only 32 are men, 8 are boys nearly grown, and the remaining 93 are women and children. He started fully equipped and armed, as if on one of the "summer-trips" of old. However it may be, they had set out before it was known, and were beyond the reservation ere an effective pursuit could be commenced.

The direction in which they went was easily guessed, for only the east and southeast are available for escape. Their ultimate destination was absolutely certain: it was the Sierra Madre, with the Apache flesh-pots of Egypt, to wit, a wide, uninhabited, inaccessible range, plenty of game, wood, and water, occasional American prospectors, well armed and stocked with cartridges, to kill and rob, and defenceless Mexican settlements along the principal chains, made to order, so to say, for easy slaughter and pillage. Thither, to the old haunts of many of his followers, Gerónimo could not fail to wend his way.

The cry "Stop thief" was at once, and very legitimately too, raised everywhere. But with equal propriety the plaintive objection could be opposed: "Hunt for a needle in a haystack!" Western New Mexico, between the Arizona line and the Sierra Magdalena, north of the Gila, and south of the Rito Quemado, is a bad country through which to hunt Indians. Sparsely settled, and even then only in places tolerably far apart, it is an intricate mountain labyrinth, covering almost 12,000 square miles. To protect such settlers as were living close to the Apaches was utterly impossible: the outburst was too sudden, too unexpected, the unfortunate settlements too remote from all garrisons. If any criticism may be indulged in on this score, it cannot apply to the present, but to the past. Why was not a military post established near the eastern boundary of the reserve, so as to obstruct the well-known *débouché* toward the San Francisco River? All that the military could do was to hem in the murderous fugitives so as to either drive them back into Arizona or capture them in New Mexico.

It is certain that both General Crook and Colonel Bradley have acted in the emergency with commendable alacrity and judgment. While troops from Fort Thomas pushed along the Gila, detachments from Fort Bayard scouted the wild ranges on its headwaters, the garrisons of Fort Selden, Fort Craig, along the Rio Grande, even of distant Fort Stanton, were put in motion toward the Mimbres Mountains in the West; volunteers from Socorro penetrated beyond the Magdalena; Major Fountain and his Rangers moved up from Las Cruces, the Pueblo Indians of Laguna took the field in the north, directed by able and courageous frontiersmen. General Crook himself appeared at Deming to take command. But to scour and protect the vast territory, he had only about thirteen companies and perhaps two hundred to three hundred militia!

To the energetic converging movements of these forces, Gerónimo with consummate skill opposed an amazingly rapid dispersion of his own people. In little more than a week after he left Arizona, hostile Indians had already threatened remote points on the inner periphery of the huge quadrilateral above described, and had conveyed the impression of an Indian outbreak of much greater magnitude. Such astounding velocity of march, unnoticed, unfelt, is attainable only by Indians, who travel day and night if the country is without inhabitants, who sleep or (in case it can be done with impunity) strike in the day-time and move at night, regardless of supplies, utterly devoid of feeling for their stock. They know the country thoroughly, and if they did not, they know where they start from and where they are going: more is not required for their guidance. This lightning-like scattering over an extensive, difficult region bewilders and baffles the most experienced commander, frightens the most courageous, civilized, and peaceable settlements. Gerónimo has, in this instance, acted with the brilliancy of Chis, the ferocity of Nané, and the cruel obstinacy of Juh. After he had conveyed the impression that his designs were to penetrate south along the Sierra Mimbres, his men turned westward again, and led their pursuers to believe that he was making his way for the Sierra del Dátil in the northwest. Then he quietly drew in the skirmishers, and, slipping past the troops on the Gila, ran the band, with booty and stock, through the narrow funnel at Stein's Pass into Southeastern Arizona and to the Mexican frontier. There he is now, with troops of the United States in close pursuit yet.

It will depend upon the cooperation of the Mexican forces whether Gerónimo can reach the fastnesses of the Sierra Madre or not. If the former are numerous enough and timely enough advised so as to force a decisive engagement (such as at "Tres Castillos" in 1880), then there is no hope left for the Apaches. At the hands of Mexican troops their doom is sealed. Should our soldiers, following them into Mexico as per treaty "on a hot trail," overtake them, then it is also to be hoped that they will not be suffered to capitulate. The present outbreak was utterly unprovoked; neither soldiers, nor officials, nor settlers have given any cause for it. The atrocities which were afterward perpetrated are unjustifiable crimes, for which not even the explanation of Indian warfare can be properly suggested.

LONDON WATER-COLORS.

LONDON, June 15.

THAT a decided decadence in the art of England is taking place, is made clear even by the water-color work in which has always lain the great strength of English art. It is not merely that there are no men now to be classed with Turner, Dewint,

Cox, Fielding, and many others not prominent in the presence of those giants, but that in the men who at present most succeed, with few exceptions, there is a distinct lowering of purpose, and a satisfaction in matter-of-fact and in mere technical successes which inevitably bring paralysis on the art that achieves them. The old English school was a poetic school, and reflected all the healthful and delightful sentiment with which nature inspires a sound and energetic race. It was not classical or artificial, hardly, as a general thing, highly artistic; but whatever charm it had was that of purity and simplicity, a style entirely unsophisticated, even in the case of Turner, who attained the highest point of pure art ever known in it, and growing out of the subject-matter as simply and directly as that of Burns.

Of this class of painters there is not one among the men now active in their profession. In the Old Water Color Society, Boyce comes nearest to the old vein, and the charming sentiment that runs through all his work is closely allied to the vein of Copley Fielding and some others of the past generation, but with less sense of freedom from the constraint of facts and more evidence of painting before nature. Always charming, subtle in style, and with a certain refinement which verges on monotony, but which never fails to wear and grow on the mind that has learned to appreciate it, Boyce's drawings are perhaps the best examples of the art which lies between the old school of idealists and the new school of actualists. They are in a plaintive key of color, and generally of subjects quiet in the extreme—old architecture, domestic by preference, with sketches of the gentler English landscape, or the similar portions of French.

T. M. Richardson, another of the veterans whose work I remember, I think, thirty years ago, still retains the influence of Turner and the idealists, but translates art into artifice, and while his technical ability remains, without question, great, its devices are too patent and weary the eye. A large view of Etna, from Tsormina, is perhaps the best example of the scenic landscape to be found in the two exhibitions, but is a poor substitute for Turner, or even Leitch. S. P. Jackson, also a veteran of the "Society," still shows in his pure, transparent color and refined method of working—quiet, dignified, and in many respects like that of our W. T. Richards—a recognition of the value of sentiment apart from that of facts.

In the Institute, as the new society is called for distinction's sake, there is one remarkable drawing of an evening scene (illustrating, in the catalogue, a passage from Judges, but which is simply a street in an Eastern city with a brilliant evening sky and a well-rendered twilight dreaminess) that pertains clearly to the ideal and is a remembered effect. Arthur Severn has also some poetic studies of sea effects and of Venice, and Walter Crane has a noble drawing, "Pan-pipes," in a purely ideal vein, the landscape and all the accessories being rendered with a grace and classic feeling quite alone in the exhibition. Two shepherdesses dancing to the piping of a shepherd lad seated on an old sarcophagus turned into a drinking trough, on which is a relief of Pan and a Bacchante, make the picture.

These are all I could find of work which is in the finer vein of sentiment of nature. In the figure department there are not many memorable things, but a few are very fine in their way. Chief among them in the Institute is a drawing by C. Green, "Neil and her Grandfather at the Races," which is, so far as I am capable of feeling, the best picture of the year in the purely realistic, story-telling kind. It is only an

English crowd at the races, with all the varied types of the English world, ruffians, clowns, gentlefolk—much as in the artist's well-known drawing in Mr. Walters's collection; but Neil and her grandfather crouching behind the box of Punch and Judy form the centre of the composition—charming conceptions, and rendered, like all the other characters, with great individuality and delicacy as well as masterly power; excellent in drawing, tender in color, and of extreme simplicity and directness in execution. I do not think that in the realistic vein water-color can go further. An artist whose name is new to me, and who has yet to acquire the mastery of the higher qualities of pictorial effect, H. R. Steer, has a remarkable drawing of great pathos and dramatic power, "Evicted," giving a street scene in smoky and dingy London, with a little lad keeping guard for an evicted family on the pile of furniture which is gathered in a heap on the sidewalk; the boy, a sad-faced, frightened child, but resolute to keep his guard, forming the centre of the picture. It lacks but little in the treatment—a little more concentration and emphasis of light and shade—to make this a picture which should rank with the best of the year as to the technique, while as to pathos and silent protest against the social inequalities which make London what it is, it is a noble picture—a painted sermon. With the exception of the drawings of J. D. Linton, the President, there are no figure subjects of great power in that vein of color which we recognize as ideal—that in which Watts, Burne-Jones, and Rossetti gave the lead; but those of Mr. Linton are noble, though in a lesser way than theirs.

In the "Society," Albert Moore gives his usual decorative figure drawings, in the classical vein and subtle color which I have done justice to in my Academy letter. It is simple decorative art, but very complete in its chord of tints, pale and opalescent.

In the more common vein of realistic figure painting the finest, *me judice*, is Napier Hemy's "Pilchard Fishers," a powerful piece of sunlight effect on some fishermen who have gathered up a shoal of pilchards in their nets and are scooping them out into their boats. For solid, large-handed realism and brilliancy of general effect, it would be difficult to surpass it in oil or water; and as an example of what water-color can do, it stands alone in vigor among the pictures of the season. Another of the same general vein, almost painfully realistic, is Walter Langley's "Waiting for the Boats"—a row of fisherwomen, half length and on a large scale, possibly half life-size, looking out to sea and out of the picture; the various types of fisherwoman well noted, and the whole painted with great solidity and masterliness, yet not an agreeable picture to have in one's room. There is a way of treating this rude peasant life that renders all its character with none of the repulsive details—as Millet did it, for instance, or Israels—which is at once masterly and true and yet not painful; but this intense realism, which strikes one as more real than the thing itself, thrusts into our faces the mere surface coarseness, with such energy that there is no chance to become interested in the hidden qualities of the subject. The dirt, the raggedness, and the degradation of poverty and of the low estate which borders on poverty, are too easily rendered to make them the subject of a triumph; but the painter who can find, as Millet and Israels did, the pathos and spiritual vitality which lie behind those, without insisting on the accident or misfortune of the peasant so strongly as to make us lose sight of the deeper qualities, will not be willing to deal in such a realistic and over-painstaking way with subjects of this class.

The intense realism, in general, which seems

to be the dominant form of artistic vitality in England, is in fact impossible to men of great poetic or artistic gifts. Men of high imaginative power may be capable of rendering with the greatest minuteness the facts of which they make use, but it will not be in the way of realism, but because the imaginative vision is intense and minute, and the facts are needed; whereas the vision which is superficially minute is naturalistic and essentially commonplace, and this is the quality of most of the English naturalistic painting. Burne-Jones does in some of his pictures deal with the most elaborate refinement of detail, but always in the way of imaginative completeness, not from any intention to emulate naturalistic realism.

Of this naturalism, pure and simple, there is enough, if not always of the best, in both the water-color exhibitions, of a large and frank kind in the work of Mr. Earle—a study from the Villa d'Este, Tivoli; in that of Mr. George Marks, who has a curiously and largely truthful study of "A Chalk Pit"—a bit, apparently, of Surrey landscape; with more of human sympathy in "A Fen Farm," by R. W. Macbeth, and in "The Sisters," by Miss Gow, all of the Institute. Of the same class in the Society are "A Summer Paradise," by A. W. Hunt; a delicate study of spring vegetation by Mr. Charles Gregory, possessing very admirable qualities of realistic color; a landscape background to a scene from the "Tempest," inappropriate to the subject, but very fine as landscape; "The Delectable Mountains," by Albert Goodwin, which is simply a study of a hillside, purple with heather, and flecked with wild flowers; an architectural subject from Jerusalem, by Carl Haag; a brilliant seaside bit by Ernest A. Waterlow, and many studies of still life, notable for nothing but minuteness. A noble drawing of horses on a towing path by Mr. Beavis is realistic in a way, as such things can be realized; and in a certain vein of realism the backgrounds of Mrs. Allingham's exquisite pictures of child-life and domestic incident are thorough without being at all labored, and these little pictures are on the whole perhaps the most entirely satisfactory of this class in the whole range of my present letter.

There is a great deal of technical ability in the two exhibitions, but the dominant impression thus far, if one compares the old art with the new, is the singular want of purpose behind the painting power. As in the Academy, the hand is better than the head. The frivolity and sometimes inanity of the subject-matter, even when the picture is avowedly an incident picture; the intellectual insignificance of the work which is professedly undertaken with a literary meaning, strikes one with singular force. Such silly inventions are made the object of the labor of months that one can hardly form a favorable opinion of the general intellectual development of the English artist. Of course, men like Leighton, Watts, Burne-Jones, Richmond, Alma-Tadema, and some others would be distinguished in any school by the marked intellectual quality of their work; but, taken as a whole, the English school compares badly with any of the Continental schools in respect of the evidence of general and especially intellectual culture, rather than of technical weakness; and by a deficiency in style rather than in executive cleverness as compared especially with the French school. The rarest thing to see is, not a picture which shows that the artist knows how to paint, but one which shows a serious purpose in the painting; and "self-taught" may be inscribed on most of the work even of the better class. While a great genius may be better for being self-taught, the

average work of ordinary man is ill taught when self-taught. Watts, individual and strong as he is, shows everywhere in his work his keen appreciation of Greek and Venetian art; and Burne-Jones, with all the originality which at times he shows himself capable of, is at other times most strongly influenced by the mediæval Italian art and the color of Venice. To insist on forming one's own style or line of art is mainly to insist on poverty of thought and a narrow and transitory success; for what, in art as in thought, lasts longest is that which claims widest affinities and is least provincial, while most English art is provincial to the last degree. W. J. S.

A FRENCH NIBELUNG OPERA.

PARIS, June 15.

THE Paris press has often declared its dissatisfaction with the management of the Grand Opéra, which receives from the Government an annual subvention of 800,000 francs, charges high admission prices, and in return for all this does not give the public one-tenth the variety of entertainment that may be enjoyed in a German city of even the second rank. The principal cause of complaint, however, is that living composers do not receive sufficient encouragement. Some of the most successful operas of recent years had to be first exported and approved by a foreign public before a Parisian manager was found willing to try his luck with them. This was the case with Reyer's "Sigurd," which has just been brought out with success at the Grand Opéra. For ten years the composer had in vain endeavored to convince the successive directors of the suitability of his work for their stage; and at last he was obliged to take it to Brussels and produce it there. The leading Paris papers had their critics on the spot, and their favorable comments, combined with the satisfaction of the local audience, seem to have overcome the scruples of the Paris manager, and so M. Reyer, who is a member of the Institute, a well-known critic and author of several operas, at last found himself the hero of the day. To prevent, however, any injurious elation on his part, the managers took care to delay the first performance till two days before the Grand Prix, which marks the end of the Paris season, after which most of the regular patrons of the opera leave the city for their country villas and the watering-places.

In its outlines, the subject of "Sigurd" is almost identical with the last part of Wagner's Tetralogy—"Die Götterdämmerung." Brunnhilde appears as Hilda, Siegfried as Sigurd, Grimhilde as Hilda, while Hagen and Gunther preserve their names and characteristics. As in Wagner's drama, Brunnhild is the Valkyrie who, for disobeying Odin or Wotan, has been put into a magnetic sleep, from which no one can awake her and claim her as his own except a hero with sufficient courage to brave the fire and other terrors with which she is surrounded, King Gunther and Sigurd are the two warriors whose aim is to win this bride. Sigurd visits Gunther to challenge him to combat. Gunther, however, offers him his friendship instead, for he recognizes him as the hero who once delivered his sister Hilda from the hands of the enemy. Hilda has fallen deeply in love with Sigurd, and seeks some means to make him return her love and forget the Valkyrie. Her nurse Uta, being versed in the magic arts, prepares a love potion which Hilda hands to Sigurd when he swears the oath of brotherhood with Gunther, and which has the desired effect. Sigurd, on condition of being rewarded with the hand of Hilda, agrees to assist Gunther to win the Valkyrie; and the two set out on the

perilous journey, accompanied by Hagen. These are the contents of the first act, which is much too long, and includes none of the best musical numbers of the opera.

A scene in a sacred forest, bordering on a lake, with an altar of Freya on one side, and a chorus of priests and people celebrating a sacrifice, opens the second act. From a musical point of view this is the gem of the opera. Not only is the music here original and individual, but it admirably reflects the moods and color of the situation. When Sigurd, Gunther, and Hagen appear on the scene, they are warned by the priests of the extreme dangers of the journey. A consultation is held, and Sigurd offers to proceed alone from this point, after receiving from the priests the sacred horn which will aid him in getting access to Brunnhild's castle. As soon as he finds himself alone he blows his horn. Immediately twilight overcasts the lake and the forest, thunder is heard, the wind howls, and from the lake arise the beautiful forms of the three Norns, holding in the water a white sheet (shroud?), indicating by gestures that it is intended for him. Undaunted by this gloomy prophecy, he prepares to blow his horn again, when he is suddenly surrounded by Kobolds and by Valkyries, against whom he has to defend himself with his sword. He blows the horn again, the phantoms disappear, and their place is taken by charming nixies and elves, who dance around him voluptuously and endeavor to caress him. Like Parsifal, however, he remains unmoved, and again blows his horn. In storm and thunder the lake disappears, and the castle of the Valkyrie rises in its place. He enters and finds the sleeping Brunnhild in a large hall guarded by Valkyries. He invokes the spirits; her couch changes into a vessel, which is immediately seen moving along the lake, drawn by two swans, à la "Lohengrin."

In the third act, which is somewhat abbreviated, the action is as scant as the music is uninteresting. As Sigurd Lad, on meeting Brunnhild, carefully kept his features concealed beneath his helmet, she is persuaded, though with some misgivings, that Gunther is the hero who released her and is to be her spouse. Festivities follow; but as Brunnhild seizes Sigurd's hand to place it in Hilda's, the sound of thunder is heard, awakening gloomy forebodings. In the last act, the dramatic interest again rises, but after three hours of often monotonous music in a hot theatre it is quite impossible to maintain one's interest in the proceedings on the stage. As Brunnhild cannot conceal her misgivings and her admiration of Sigurd, Hilda, in a fit of jealousy, reveals her having learned from Sigurd that he and not Gunther had liberated her from her sleep. Brunnhild divines the plot, and accuses Hilda to her face of having used magic arts to win Sigurd's love. Hilda confesses to Hagen her fatal folly in betraying the secret to the Valkyrie; and Hagen resolves that Sigurd must die. To save his life, Brunnhild, on the entreaty of Hilda, agrees to renounce her claims; but it is too late—the treacherous Hagen has already done his work.

In this last part, more than elsewhere, the poetic genius, the grandeur, the exquisite subtlety of details, that are found in Wagner's version of this plot, present themselves so inevitably for comparison as to make Reyer's work seem infinitely less meritorious than it would perhaps seem if judged on its own merits. It is all the difference between "Hail, Macbeth!" and "Comment vous portez-vous, Monsieur Macbeth!" as the French translator puts it. However, it would be unjust to blame M. Reyer for trying to compete on common ground with the greatest dramatic composer of all time. His

score was completed a decade ago, before Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelung" was produced at Bayreuth; and though Wagner began work on the Tetralogy twenty-five years before it was completed, and at an early date published the poem, which Reyer may have seen, yet it is also possible that he took the hint from Schumann or Mendelssohn, each of whom had cast an eye on this subject—without any results, however. As it is not at all probable that "Sigurd" will long remain on the repertory, or ever be heard in New York, it would hardly be worth while to point out the details in which it differs from "Die Götterdämmerung." But it is of some interest to know that in his general method M. Reyer shows everywhere the influence of Wagner. His opera is not made up of a series of unconnected, isolated arias, duos, etc., but the melody is more or less "continuous." The vocal parts are entirely free from silly ornaments, and are often characterized by dramatic vigor and realism. The orchestral score betrays in its workmanship the hand of a conscientious musician, but he has not learned from Wagner the art of magic coloring. There are few passages in which the instrumentation enchants the hearer by itself, or even attracts his attention specially, nor are M. Reyer's powers of modulation always commensurate with the demands for thrilling dramatic expression. As a whole the opera is little more than *Kapellmeister-musik*; but it has redeeming features, and the overture, which is suppressed at the Opéra in order to save time, is said to be a favorite number on local concert programmes.

The Paris Opéra has always been famous for its *mise-en-scène*, on which fabulous sums are expended whenever a new opera is produced. With the exception of Vienna and Bayreuth, no city approaches the scenic marvels beheld here every day, and in all my operatic experience I have never witnessed anything more smooth, rapid, and natural than the sudden changes in Act II, from scene to scene, each more picturesque than its predecessor. And the point to which I wish to call particular attention is that the Paris Grand Opéra has paid Wagner the compliment of liberally borrowing from the rich stock of his innovations. The scenic plagiarisms, indeed, are the only striking evidences of the "Wagnerism" which some of the local critics have discovered in "Sigurd." The similarity of effect produced by the historical costumes is, of course, a natural coincidence. Not so, however, the swan-boat, which is a discreditable attempt to steal Wagner's thunder. Among the other plagiarisms the most conspicuous is the transformation scene, when Sigurd rushes through the flames (i. e., colored steam) to find Brunnhild. However, Wagner's operas are so full of beauties of all sorts that Reyer's "anticipations" of some of them will do them no harm when once they are produced in Paris. On the contrary, it may be an advantage to familiarize the public beforehand with the names of the principal personages in the Tetralogy.

Good singers are often as rare in Paris as elsewhere; but the performance of "Sigurd" is very praiseworthy, the leading artists being Mme. Caron—a French Materna—Sellier, Lasalle, Bérardi. The chorus is generally excellent, but has its weak moments, when it sings out of tune, or in an apathetic manner. The famous orchestra needs no commendation, nor does the ballet. M. Reyer abolished so many of the old-fashioned operatic nuisances in his work that it was somewhat interesting to observe how he would proceed to circumvent the rule that there must be a ballet in the second act—a rule to the neglect of which, it is well known, "Tannhäuser" owed its historic fiasco in Paris. Reyer did not dare to

omit the ballet, but introduced it in a mitigated form in the scene where the nixies and elfs seek to enchant the hero. Something similar was done by Wagner in the Paris version of "Tannhäuser"; but he absolutely refused to introduce it into the second act—the time when the *bons vivants* enter the Opéra after dinner. So much for having "ideals." F.

Correspondence.

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I understand that in your issue of May 31 there is the following paragraph:

"A correspondent writes us from Arizona: 'Permit me to call your attention to an instance of literary piracy. The story entitled "The Knight of the Black Forest," recently concluded in the *Century*, contains an incident—the purchase of pictures by the courier—which has been stolen bodily from a work extensively read some twenty years ago, "Roba di Roma," by the sculptor Story."

As the author of the unpretending little book, "The Knight of the Black Forest," and therefore as the natural guardian of its fair fame, I desire to state that your correspondent has unwittingly made some mistake, as there is no such incident whatever, nor anything at all resembling it, in my story.

Will you very kindly insert this note in your next number, and oblige yours truly,

GRACE DENIO LITCHFIELD.

AIX-LES-BAINS, June 7, 1885.

[In "Roba di Roma" (page 391 of the sixth edition) Story tells how a courier bought a picture and in the transaction defrauded his patron. From an incident in "The Knight of the Black Forest" (pages 40-43) and from occasional paragraphs, it may be inferred that the business methods of the two couriers were similar; but we cannot think our correspondent was justified in asserting that Miss Litchfield's incident was "stolen bodily," or even in assuming that she ever read "Roba di Roma."—ED. NATION.]

SECRET SOCIETIES AND COLLEGE GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I wish to thank "MS." for his letter relative to "Secret Societies and College Government." When I learned, June 18, that the society with which I connected myself while in college had issued (June 15) a circular urging my name as trustee, I was greatly annoyed, and at once wrote President Seelye expressing indignation that society politics should be mixed up with the election of trustees, and expressing a desire to resign. His reply, June 19, is as follows:

"Do not decline. It is now too late, even if it were ever proper. Let the matter take its course, and, whatever be the result, we will all join you in trying to eliminate society politics from such elections. I understand how you must be vexed by the circular to which you refer, and which was surely most ill-judged; but you had better, in my judgment, not take any public action about it at this stage."

It is but just to myself, however, to set forth these facts. GEO. A. PLIMPTON.

NEW YORK, June 20, 1885.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I sent you, upon the 23d inst., a copy of a circular letter, issued by one of the secret societies at Amherst, in which the alumni of the col-

lege are urged to vote for Mr. George A. Plimpton for trustee; and I made that letter the text of some remarks upon the impropriety of introducing society politics into trustee elections. I did not suppose that any one would infer or suspect, on the face of the facts presented, that Mr. Plimpton had evoked, sanctioned, or even been cognizant of the action of his imprudent friends; and it did not occur to me that any disclaimer of such an inference or suspicion on my part was called for.

To those who know Mr. Plimpton, the supposition that he had any hand in or fore-knowledge of the act of his society, or that he took any step to secure his nomination or election as trustee, is simply absurd. To avoid any misapprehension of his position on the part of those who do not know him, it is proper to state that from the beginning of the present contest he has been one of the most ardent and active supporters of another candidate—Professor John W. Burgess. MS.

NEW YORK, June 20, 1885.

MR. KEILEY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Several times I have thought of writing you a line to disabuse your mind of the very false impression you have gotten of my fellow-townsmen, Mr. Keiley—an impression which shows how impossible it is for those at a distance to form a correct estimate of a man from a single circumstance. But your last declaration concerning him is so palpably, tangibly wrong, and stated with so much confidence, that I can no longer forbear. One of the very first Greek scholars of this country, who is now one of the intellectual ornaments of your city, speaking to me of Mr. Keiley's eminent fitness for the post originally assigned him, characterized him as a "beautiful classical scholar," adding that he possessed a thorough knowledge of Italian, as well as of those modern languages more usually acquired. Add to this the most delicate humor, the most polished wit, courtly manners, intellectual gifts of a high order, and a thorough knowledge of men and affairs, and it must strike every one that, were there no counterbalancing consideration, Mr. Bayard could hardly have chosen better in selecting a representative to Rome.

That one counterbalancing consideration was known to few. There never was a Romanist known more liberal in his views nor more cordial in his relations to Protestants. Had any one spoken of him to a Richmonder as a rabid Ultramontane, the only answer would have been a laugh. That unfortunate speech which caused all his woes, was a mistake of the kind to which men in public life are so liable. He was put up to voice the sentiment of those of like faith with himself, who were indignant at what they considered an outrage, and, like most orators, he wanted to do it well. The sentiments of that speech doubtless sat very lightly on him, and probably were almost forgotten by himself, as they were by his friends, when they so suddenly rose up to plague him. His conduct since has been that of a dignified gentleman placed in a most delicate and difficult position.—Yours respectfully,

A PROTESTANT MINISTER.

LOCUST DALE, VA., June 20, 1885.

[We do not understand how a man possessing a "thorough knowledge of Italian," and also a "thorough knowledge of men and affairs," can have supposed that an Ultramontane Catholic would be an acceptable representative of a foreign Power at the Italian court. On the contrary, such a view would seem to indicate

extraordinary ignorance of recent Italian history and politics. Moreover, our correspondent must remember that the explanation which Mr. Keiley offered of the speech he made about the temporal power, was generally considered a much greater blunder than the speech itself, as it described the process by which the Government he was to represent at Rome obtained possession of his own State, as "a gross and bloody violation of public rights." It is really absurd to advocate the claims of any man capable of "putting his foot in it" in this way twice, to any diplomatic position of responsibility.—ED. NATION.]

RHODE ISLAND SLIGHTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: On the publication of the first volume of McMaster's "History of the People of the United States," the *Book Notes* made serious objection to the introduction into the history of statements which, had they been historically true, would have exhibited Rhode Island in a very bad light. These things were introduced and discussed upon as if they had been facts. Now the *Book Notes* complains of the second volume, just issued, that certain facts of very great interest and a great credit to Rhode Island have been suppressed. The *Book Notes* refers to the seizure of the captain and chief officer of the British ship *Nautilus*, at Newport, in 1794, and holding them until certain impressed American seamen were released from the ship. The details of this very important affair appear in a message to Congress by President Washington dated June 4, 1794.

The history of Rhode Island is unfortunate in the hands of Mr. McMaster.—With respect, yours,

THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK NOTES.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., June 20, 1885.

THE DRINKING OF ALCOHOL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: There is an interesting point from which the alcohol question discussed in your last issue may be examined, and it seems to me an important one, viz.: What are the relative amounts of actual alcohol now and formerly consumed? This may be pretty accurately determined by a calculation based on your table of gallons per capita.

If we take the amount of pure alcohol in the distilled spirits to be 50 per cent., in the wine 10 per cent., and in the beer 6 per cent., the number of gallons consumed per capita will be as follows:

GALLONS ALCOHOL CONSUMED PER CAPITA.

	Distilled Spirits at 50 per cent.	Wine at 10 per cent.	Beer at 6 per cent.	Total Al- cohol.
1840.....	1.260	.029	.082	1.371
1850.....	1.115	.027	.095	1.237
1860.....	1.430	.035	.194	1.659
1870.....	1.035	.032	.319	1.386
1880.....	.620	.056	.496	1.172
1881-2-3-4..	.730	.046	.600	1.385

If we take the amounts of alcohol in spirits, wine, and beer to be respectively 50, 10, and 5, instead of as above, then the figures will stand thus:

GALLONS ALCOHOL CONSUMED PER CAPITA.

	Distilled Spirits at 50 per cent.	Wine at 10 per cent.	Beer at 5 per cent.	Total Al- cohol.
1840.....	1.260	.023	.060	1.352
1850.....	1.115	.022	.079	1.216
1860.....	1.430	.028	.162	1.620
1870.....	1.035	.026	.306	1.327
1880.....	.620	.045	.413	1.078
1881-2-3-4..	.730	.037	.508	1.275

And, finally, we may compare the total amount in 1840 according to the first table (1.371 gal.) with the same in 1881-84 as given in the second

table (1.275 gal.), for doubtless the wines and beers now drunk are both weaker than those used in 1840, the vast increase in the manufacture of lager beer leaving hardly any doubt as to the latter.—Very truly yours,

SAM. G. CHILD.

Boston, June 25, 1885.

CABINET RESPONSIBILITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: There is hardly a number of the *Nation* that does not contain an illustration of the doctrine which, through your great liberality, I have striven to enforce upon your readers.

It seems that in our mediæval customs system, there are certain regulations so oppressive as to be intolerable, and the remedy has been sought, as is our wont in the case of bad and sometimes of good laws, in laxity of administration. This laxity, however, has nourished frauds which have gone far to destroy honest importing. Secretary Manning, upon a primitive and somewhat ingenious theory that laws, good or bad, should be enforced while they exist, has directed that these regulations should be strictly carried out, whereupon certain importers have protested and appealed to the Secretary against such action. You say that they are taking a wrong course; that it is the duty of the Secretary to enforce the laws which are enacted by Congress, and which he has no power to modify, and therefore that importers should carry their complaints to Congress, where the real power and responsibility lie. As an abstract proposition this is unquestionably true, but let us see what it leads to in practice. Everybody knows that the guidance, and, at least so far as negative action goes, the absolute control of the tariff, lie with the Committee of Ways and Means; but, what everybody does not know, though the knowledge is spreading pretty fast, is, that the tariff question is never discussed or treated upon the merits of the case, but in dependence upon the largest amount of party or private interest which can be brought to bear upon the Committee. Importing is almost all done in a few large centres. The interests dependent upon what is euphemistically called protection are scattered all over the country, and are therefore much more powerful with members of Congress. Every one of these interests, individually or in combination, keeps an agent in Washington during the session bound to insure, by every device known to intrigue, that its particular article is not touched. As they know well the danger of pulling a single brick from the fabric, they combine to resist any change at all. The importers have learned by long experience the utter futility of all efforts with the Committee, and have, I imagine, pretty much given up trying. Tariff commissions are such a transparent sham, such an obvious throwing of a tub to the whale, that intelligent and self-respecting merchants will not appear before them. The manipulated Committee, by manipulating the rules of the House, has staved off all action for many years, and to all appearance will do so, if the system is continued, for many years longer. The only chance of change seems to be in a violent popular impulse, with a horizontal reduction, involving much disaster, with doubtful permanent gain, while the uncertainty of its occurrence from year to year keeps the whole business of the country paralyzed.

It seems very strange that the Secretary of the Treasury, the chief financial officer of the Government, the leading counsellor and appointee of the President, himself the only representative of the whole country, should have little if any more legal influence upon the tariff than any custom-house appraiser or clerk. Yet such is the fact.

He can make recommendations in his report, but they are stifled, like all other importunate suggestions, in the quicksand of the committee. He may appear before the committee, though it is quite beneath the dignity of his position; but while his evidence may be paraded on the same principle as a tariff commission, it receives no more real attention than that of an importer of pig-iron. Being at the head of the whole revenue administration, he is the natural point of resort for the importing interest. Imagine his saying to a delegation of them, "Gentlemen, what you say is perfectly true, but I am as powerless in the matter as you are." What a different state of things it would be if the Secretary, standing up in the House, and in reply to the questions of individual members—and thus, as it were, speaking to the whole country—should state in detail his view of the present tariff. We need not go into any fine-spun discussion whether, under our system, the Cabinet could resign if defeated, or if the power of dissolution, which is impossible under that system, is a necessary complement of ministerial responsibility. What is wanted is light upon the tariff—not on its defects, which are quite palpable enough, but as to what changes are needed and practicable, and how they are to be brought about. Suppose that next winter, while the Committee of Ways and Means is in incubation and Congress is squabbling for the want of something to do, it were known that a public debate was to take place in the House between the Secretary and the members, say from New York and elsewhere; what intense interest would be felt throughout the nation! And if in that debate any practicable plan was evolved which Congress ought to adopt and would not, how the thunder of the country would begin to ring about their ears! Would it not be worth while for the writers on economics to intermit for a short time their twenty-years' discussion of the merits and demerits of the tariff, and give their attention to the means of getting it changed?

The report of the Senate committee to which I referred in a former letter said that the advantages of the course were too obvious to need discussion, and they would therefore only discuss its constitutionality. They would have done still better if they had explained that the chief obstacle is in the hostility of Congress, with the causes of that hostility and the means of overcoming it. It is, no doubt, the fear of that hostility which prevents so many executive officials who thoroughly believe in the change from saying so publicly. But that hostility has got to be met. The conflict between legislative and executive power is as old as the world. In this conflict, if the legislature secures the power of the purse, it may win in the beginning, but its rule leads to anarchy, and in the long run the executive gains the battle in irresponsible despotism. The immediate question may be the tariff, but the real and underlying one is the existence of the republic. Not only in the general Government, but in the States and cities, this conflict is coming as certainly and as portentously as that with slavery. Shall we make executive power strong enough to hold its own against the legislature, and yet be held to responsibility, or shall we go on unheeding till legislative anarchy leads the people to demand the strong rule of a despot?

G. B.

Boston, June 29, 1885.

Notes.

ESTES & LAURIAT have brought out a new edition of Rambaud's 'History of Russia' in three volumes, of which this Anglo-American version first appeared in 1879. A summary chapter has

been added to that which treats of the Turco-Russian war, for the sake of rounding out the work with the assassination of Alexander II. and the accession of the present Emperor.

W. S. Gottsberger has just published in 2 vols. 'Matilda, Princess of England: a Romance of the Crusades,' by Mme. Sophie Cottin, translated from the French by Jennie W. Raum. This is the second translation of Mme. Cottin's 'Matthilde' which has been published in this country. The first appeared in 1837, in 'Walden's Select Circulating Library,' vol. ix, and was entitled 'The Saracen; or, Matilda and Malek Adhel.'

Another instance of the reprehensible practice of publishing the same book under two different titles is afforded by Julian Hawthorne's recent novel, published last December by the Appletons, under the title 'Noble Blood,' and issued a few months later in London, by Chatto & Windus, as 'Miss Cadogna.' It would be interesting to know whether the transformation is due to the author or to the English publishers.

The characteristic feature of the thirty-fifth volume of *Lippincott's Magazine*, now lying bound before us, is that it has so few serial articles; the fiction (in two cases) and the New Orleans Exposition furnishing the only exception to the rule that each monthly number has been complete in itself. The frontispiece and the full-page engraving facing p. 435 go far to reconcile us to the gradual disappearance of illustrations from this magazine.

English history naturally overshadows every and all other departments of the 'Annual Register' (London, Rivingtons), and gives its chief value to this standard yearly summary. It will be long before the United States, by virtue of its large affairs or of the federative Anglo-Saxon idea, takes a second place in the political chronicle of the 'Register'; but we remark that in the volume for 1884, now before us, our country fills as large a space as Germany, and of good right, if only the Presidential election were recorded—by all odds the most important occurrence of 1884. The 'Register,' we need hardly say, takes the Mugwump view of Mr. Blaine's defeat. The customary daily list of events of the past year, the world over; reviews of literature, science, and art; and obituary, fill out the measure of about 600 pages of handsome print.

The new edition of 'Voltaire's Romances' published by Peter Eckler includes translations of 'Le Blanc et le Noir,' 'L'Homme aux Quarante Écus,' 'L'Ingénu,' 'Le Monde comme il va,' 'Micromégas,' 'Zadig,' et., with some fragments like that from 'Candide,' here called "Pleasure in having no Pleasure." The publisher had a philanthropic aim in issuing this collection, being evidently an enemy of the superstition with which Voltaire contended. His notes and his illustrations are curious for the choice displayed in them.

Mr. Edmund Gosse has made a popular selection of Gray's Poems, following his own text in the four-volume edition published by Macmillan, and using his 'Life of Gray' in the "English Men of Letters" series as the basis of an introductory discourse on the career and productions of this author. The little volume is cheaply but handsomely brought out by the Clarendon Press, Oxford.

The name of the author of 'Obiter Dicta' (reviewed in No. 1043 of the *Nation*) is no longer a secret. *Good Words* for June contains a short article on Emerson by "Augustine Birrell, author of 'Obiter Dicta.'"

The novel features of the Harvard Quinquennial Catalogue, beyond the necessary addition of the graduates of the term, are an extension of the lists of fellows and tutors of the college, going backward from the year 1707, and a summary

view of the historical development of the Board of Overseers. Mr. William H. Tillinghast succeeds Mr. Sibley as the editor of this laborious work.

A year ago (June 19) was celebrated at Cambridge, England, the three hundredth anniversary of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, England. A thin volume recording the highly interesting proceedings has been issued "n. p., n. d.," as bibliographers are wont to say of dateless and unlocalized title-pages. An albertype print from the full-length portrait of Sir Walter Mildmay, the founder, serves as a frontispiece, the face bearing a certain resemblance to the late C. F. Briggs ("Harry Franco") in his last years. Professor C. E. Norton, it will be remembered, represented Harvard College, in recognition of John Harvard's having been a graduate of Emmanuel. His remarks, as reported, appear not to have been revised by him. There is much valuable information collected in the appendix. The note on John Harvard (in ignorance, of course, of Mr. Waters's recent discoveries) has a facsimile of his autograph signature for the M. A. degree.

The considerable number of persons interested in the French spoliation claims, recalled to memory by Act of Congress last January, will find a list of all the works relating to this subject in the Boston Public Library in the current Bulletin of that institution.

Still another class is served by the "List of some of the official publications of the Society of the Cincinnati" appended to the July Bulletin of the Library Co. of Philadelphia.

Our countrymen fill a significant space in *L'Art* Nos. 504, 505 (Macmillan). Mr. C. C. Perkins treats at length of the third bronze gate of the Florence Baptistery, while a memorandum sketch after Mr. Chas. Sprague Pearce's "Heart-ache" in the Salon is given on p. 216, and another after Mr. Walter Gay's "The Spinners" on the page opposite. In these numbers the Salon generally is taken in hand, as also, minus the illustrations, in the *Courrier de l'Art* for March 8, whose praise is bestowed in very scanty measure. Those of our readers who recall our Paris correspondent's account of the restoration of the Château de Chantilly, will be interested in the first of two articles on this subject by M. Charles Yriarte. A number of curious old views of the castle are reproduced in facsimile.

Mr. William L. Hughes, who has translated other American books into French, has recently put forth a new version of the best of Poe's tales (Paris: L. Hennuyer), with a biographical sketch of the poet. We infer that the translator is an Englishman, inasmuch as he thinks that the *Atlantic Monthly* is an English magazine. His selection is well made, and the translation seems at least sufficient.

The latest American additions to the Tauchnitz series are Mr. Crawford's 'Zoroaster,' Mr. James's 'Little Tour in France,' and Mr. Hawthorne's 'Fortune's Fool.' Mr. Bret Harte's new volume, 'By Shore and Sedge,' is announced. 'Foreign Parts' is the name given in this edition to Mr. James's 'Transatlantic Sketches.'

An English edition of Mr. Laurence Hutton's 'Literary Landmarks of London' has been issued by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, and is already nearly exhausted.

It is certain that we shall see a sudden cloud of books and pamphlets bearing more or less directly on the departed leader of the Romanticist revolution. Among the first to appear is the volume of 'Souvenirs d'un Hugolatre—La Génération de 1830' (Paris: Jules Lévy; New York: F. W. Christern), but its contents are not of any real importance. The author, M. Augustin Chalmel, took part in the good fight, but his place

was modest like his talent, and his reminiscences are at best but very gentle gossip. Almost the only new fact to be gleaned by any one at all familiar with the literature of the time is, that Victor Hugo sometimes used the pseudonym of "Victor d'Auverney." But to one not well read in the memoirs of 1830, M. Chalmel conveys a good idea of the times.

When the microscopic edition of Dante ('Il Dantino') saw the light at Padua in 1878, it was thought to be the smallest book in existence. But its nose was put out of joint by the discovery at Florence, in 1881, of an 'Officium' (Venice, Giunti, 1649) only 31 mm. wide and 50 mm. high. But this had evidently been much cut down in rebinding, and is therefore considered to be larger than an 'Officium' just discovered, also from the Giunti press, which has never been under the binder's knife, and in the original cover measures 33 by 48 mm. Thus bibliography, like microscopy, penetrates further and further into the Lilliputian world.

The University of Pennsylvania has just established a limited number of post-graduate fellowships in history and political science, open to the graduates of any American college. These fellowships entitle to free tuition in the department of political science, in which more than twenty lectures per week, during the whole college year, on political science and history, will be open to the students. Applicants should address Prof. E. J. James, University of Pennsylvania, West Philadelphia, Penn.

—A volume of letters has just appeared addressed to various persons in the course of twenty years by Jules de Goncourt, the youngest of the two brothers who were one author, whom Victor Hugo described as "charming writers, in unison a powerful writer, two minds from which springs a single jet of talent, supple, varied, fine, delicate." These letters will interest few people outside those belonging to the writer's own generation and nationality, and even to his very set; they have little general charm. The style is artificial in its carelessness, it is the "style compliqué" and "l'écriture à frémissements" invented by the Goncourts; and even the simplest pages remind one that M. Edmond de Goncourt wrote to a friend: "In my belief my brother's death was due to labor; painstaking especially about the elaboration of the form, the chiselling of the phrase, labor on style." The topics of which he treats are extremely limited; the people spoken of are, with a few exceptions (Gavarni, Sainte-Beuve, Flaubert), not very noteworthy; politics are discussed only in the earlier letters, and then superficially. There is no setting forth of theories or principles of art; scarcely a book is mentioned, save their own works or those of their friends, unless in such casual reference as, "For a fortnight we have thought of nothing resembling an idea; if you add the reading occasionally a page of Pascal or of the 'Liaisons' of Laclos, you will have the whole story." The letters from the East and from Italy are very inadequate. Among many other trivialities are not a few notes which are mere requests or thanks for "notices" or "announcements" or articles; or which are absurdly enthusiastic praises of "presentation copies," sounding terribly like a literary investment or bank deposit. But there is unmistakable cleverness and plenty of it, and one cannot but be amused by the account of the "deux Anglaises aux deux maris effarés, idiotisés par sept ans de voyage," or of M. Thiers at Trouville, who "se promène ici tous les jours, habillé tout en blanc; on dirait Polichinelle voué à la Vierge." In another vein he says: "Si on savait ce que coûtent les bonheurs de la vie, personne ne voudrait les acheter," or again, "Il n'y a que le travail pour guérir de

vivre." Of the constant, characteristic *grossièretés* about women there is here no occasion to speak.

—The *Paris Temps* of June 14 prints a three-column letter, by a specialist, on the experiments in cholera-vaccination that have been going on for several months in Spain. The principal operators are Doctor Ferran, who initiated the method, and two colleagues, M. Pauli and Doctor Jimeno. At Valencia the professors of the Institute of Medicine have daily meetings, at which Doctor Ferran's method is discussed, the majority being, it is stated, in favor of it. Among the populace it seems to have aroused a *furor* of confidence and expectations. Doctor Pauli states that in one town near Valencia he has vaccinated a thousand persons in a single day. As fear is known to predispose to an attack of cholera, one of the best results of Doctor Ferran's vaccinations is the utter elimination of fear among those who have been operated upon. If they are attacked by cholera, they do not think it worth while to tell any one of it. One man having told the doctor casually that he had had some choleraic symptoms some days previously, the doctor asked him why he did not come to see him. The answer was, "Bah! señor, I had been vaccinated." If any one falls ill who is known not to have been vaccinated, the neighbors at once give him up as lost; and this attitude seems to be justified by the extreme virulence of the epidemic. Last summer in Italy and France the rate of mortality was about 50 per cent.; but this year, at Alcira, it was during the first month 67 per cent. In this same town the proportion of inhabitants not vaccinated who were attacked was 1.63 per cent., while among those vaccinated the percentage of attacks was only .15. Three important conclusions have already been drawn from the vaccinations made up to date. The first relates to the absolute harmlessness of the vaccinating material. Among more than 10,000 cases of vaccination not a single serious accident has been reported. The second point is that vaccination does not protect against attacks of cholera: it simply makes them milder and harmless. The third point is that whereas a single vaccination greatly reduces the rate of mortality, a second vaccination, with a stronger "dose" of microbes, proves an absolute safeguard. The solution used for the first operation is so mild that it would prove harmless if made on infants only a few months old. M. Pauli, it seems, has vaccinated himself so often with solutions of ever-increasing virulence—both subcutaneously and *via* the stomach—that he is now able, it is seriously stated, to take a dose of pure cholera microbes, and it will have no more effect on him than an ordinary cathartic; and the writer in the *Temps* anticipates the time when centimetre cubes of cholera microbes will be prescribed by the doctors. The present epidemic in Spain shows again the absolute uselessness, in most cases, of a "cordon." It began at Jativa, followed the course of the river Jucar, which passes through it, and infected the towns on its banks, as well as a few others connected with it by canals. When a commission was sent to investigate the advisability of establishing a cordon, Doctor Ferran quietly told them such a proceeding would be useless, because the Jucar was infected. The *Temps* winds up its article by a tremendous blast into the patriotic trombone: Doctor Ferran admits that it was Pasteur's discoveries and experiments which inspired him to pursue his present course. He told the correspondent that "the two greatest men humanity has possessed are Christ, who has given them moral redemption, and Pasteur, who has found out for us the laws which must lead us to our physical redemption." Jenner is nowhere mentioned.

—A paper by M. G. Humbert, read at two successive meetings of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, gives a very full account of the finance of the Roman Empire and the system of keeping the public accounts. The sum of it is that there was the same evolution of the imperial power as in the case of the Consilium Principis of which we spoke not long since. Beginning with Augustus, all the revenues came gradually into the hands of the Emperors. The first step was to divide the *Erarium Populi Romani* by creating a special treasury for the army, with a capital of 170 million sesterces, and a revenue derived from a new tax of five per cent. on inheritances, and the old tax of one per cent. on sales. This imposition of new taxes was too fruitful a source of revenue to be neglected, and the Emperors fell into the way of not consulting the Senate in regard to their imposition. By the side of the *Erarium militare* grew up the *Fiscus*, or privy purse of the Prince. Originally his private property, it absorbed little by little all the old sources of revenues, so that the *Erarium Populi Romani* was, in the third century, little more than the Treasury of the City of Rome, as the Senate had become in fact only a Municipal Council. All the receipts and expenditures of army, navy, and provinces were in the hands of the Prince. Augustus and Tiberius made annual reports of them to the Senate, but their successors found the practice inconvenient, and even this slight safeguard against disordered finances disappeared. The disorder, it must be said, was not so much in collecting or guarding the taxes, as in spending lavishly more than was produced. As for the mere administrative details of collection and payment, they were probably conducted with the same accuracy as under the Republic. The clerks were slaves, and could be tortured if their accounts came out wrong; the higher officers were knights, and could be degraded, or banished, or, on occasion, put to death, if caught in any defalcation.

—An interesting literary ceremony took place not long ago at Amsterdam. In the presence of the élite of the literary and artistic world, the three hundredth anniversary of the most original comic dramatic poet in Dutch literature, Bredero, was celebrated by a representation of his principal comedy and by recitations of fragments of his other works. Great pains had been taken to carry back the audience to the times in which the poet wrote, not only by a correct reproduction of the costumes of the period, but also by making the music played by the orchestra consist exclusively of compositions of the seventeenth century. What is principally noticeable is the fact that the works of Bredero had been banished from the stage for a century; it was a revival in the strictest sense. As the orator of the day, Prof. van den Brink, remarked: "Even thirty years ago, the thought that a cultivated audience would find pleasure in such a representation would have been met by shouts of derision." Bredero was not a refined poet; his works breathe the same spirit of roistering gayety, of rough and boisterous animal spirits, which we find in some of the Dutch painters, like Jan Steen and Ostade. Though he took the general idea of his plots from classical models, especially from Plautus and Terence, the scene of action is always laid in Amsterdam, and his comedies are reproductions of the manners and customs of his age. He wrote at a time when Holland, after struggling for more than forty years against Spain, had closed an armistice for twelve years (1609-1621). Flushed with victory and enjoying unexampled prosperity, the Hollanders of that time were very different from the respectable, slow-going community they became in the eighteenth century; their Protestantism was like that of

Luther, perfectly compatible with a love of wine, woman, and song. The same spirit pervaded the whole community, and works like those of Bredero were enjoyed and appreciated by all classes.

—The oldest and most revered of Belgian statesmen, Charles Rogier, died in Brussels at the close of May. He lacked only a few months of eighty-five years of age. A Frenchman by birth, a Walloon by education and sentiment, he early became a passionate opponent of the rule of the House of Orange over the Belgian Netherlands. When the hostility to the Dutch, which he had fanned in Liège, broke out in a revolutionary flame in Brussels in August, 1830, he hastened thither with three hundred Liégeois volunteers, and their patriotic steadfastness did excellent service in defending the capital both against the troops of the King and from the ravages of the mob. With two other popular leaders he formed the revolutionary Administrative Commission, and soon after became a member of the Provisional Government, as well as of the National Congress. He restrained the republican ardor of some of his colleagues, supported the candidacy of the Duc de Nemours, Louis Philippe's son, for the throne of the new kingdom, and subsequently that of Prince Leopold of Coburg, who, on his election, appointed him Governor of Antwerp, and in 1832, Minister of the Interior. He was zealous in promoting the construction of railways—the first on the Continent—and, after the fall of the Cabinet in 1835, in opposing the Catholic tendencies of its successor. In 1840-41 he was Minister of Public Works, in the following six years chief of the Opposition, in 1847-52 the leading member of the new Liberal Cabinet—saving the throne of Belgium by his energy and decision during the stormy days which followed the French Revolution of February, 1848—and again at the head of affairs, mainly at the Foreign Department, from November, 1857, to January, 1868. In 1879 he had himself carried into the Chamber to give his vote for the anti-clerical Education Bill. In 1880, on occasion of the semi-centennial celebration of Belgian independence, he was the recipient of ardent popular ovations. More tangible rewards for his eminent services, offered to him both by the Crown and the nation, he had previously declined, excepting the national gift of a modest mansion in the Boulevard Botanique, in which he spent the last years of his life.

—The *Rundschau* for June has an article, by Paul Bailleu, which gives a full history of the arrest, trial, and prison-life of Fritz Reuter. Bailleu's essay is based upon an examination of the secret archive of Prussia; it contains a good deal of matter not before made public, and is interesting for the light it throws not only upon the life of the German humorist, but also upon Prussian administration during the latter days of Friedrich Wilhelm III. Reuter, born in 1810, began his university career at Rostock in 1831. The following year he went to Jena. Here he found friends immediately among the bibulous and roistering class of students, and was soon a member of the secret order (*Burschenschaft*) Germania. These *Burschenschaften*, so prominent during the war of liberation, then suppressed in 1819, had been secretly revived as early as 1827, and Jena became a stronghold of the institution. Here, as the result of a split that occurred in 1830, Reuter found two orders, the Germania and the Arminia. The Germanians were the fewer and the more radical; they insisted upon taking an active part in politics while at the university, and their programme was the "creation of a free and united Germany." The Arminians were less political; they avouched as their aim "preparation, by means of moral and scientific

culture," etc., for a German unity to be achieved somewhere in the indefinite future. It was only through an accident of friendship that Reuter happened to cast his lot with the radical Germanians. Once in the organization, Reuter wore its colors, the black, red, and gold, and drank beer with its members; he paid no attention, however, to its political doings, never read its constitution, or held office, often stayed away from its meetings, and when present never spoke but once, and that on a non-political matter. He had none of the fibre of a revolutionist. Herr Bailleu makes it clear, although he refrains from saying so, that a more harmless enemy of kings than this same Fritz Reuter could not well have been found between the Baltic and the Alps.

—In December, 1832, a general convention of the *Burschenschaften* was held at Stuttgart. Here the radicals carried the day, and it was voted that the orders must proceed at once to revolutionary measures. There resulted from this in Jena that several beadles were whipped, professors had their windows broken, and street-lamps were demolished. As Reuter saw these proceedings, he, with several friends, withdrew from the order and afterward fought a "duel" with one of the faithful. In February, 1833, he went home. Then, after due family council, it was decided that Fritz should continue his "studies" in Berlin. Arrived there, he learned that the Prussian Government had arrested two of his former comrades in the Germania, and that one of these, a theological student, had turned state's evidence. Reuter escaped to Leipzig, but Leipzig shut its doors upon him, and then he decided to return home. On his way thither, October 31, 1833, he was arrested by the police at Berlin. The hearing of his case before the police lasted one month. Then he was turned over to the Prussian Chamber of Justice, which, during the year 1834, tried 204 students for the crime of belonging to a *Burschenschaft*. Of these 192, Reuter among them, were condemned to be beheaded. Herr Bailleu notes that the decree of the court in these cases makes eleven thick folio volumes of manuscript. His sentence was made known to Reuter in August, 1836, he having meanwhile lain in prison at Silberberg. On December 11 of the same year the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for thirty years. On January 28, 1837, he was informed of this commutation, and in May there followed at his request an official statement of the grounds of the decree. Meanwhile, the foul and damp air of his prison had undermined his health, and he was threatened with blindness. He decided to forego further legal remedy and to petition the King for mercy. His father had already in most pathetic language made the same appeal. These petitions the King handed over to a ministerial commission, which in August made a report that animadverted bitterly upon Reuter's character, but recommended that his sentence be further commuted to imprisonment for eight years. Of this Reuter got news in October at Magdeburg, where he was living in quarters already officially condemned as foul and unhealthy. Here, however, he continued to live until March, 1838. Then the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg asked for the custody of his subject, and in 1839 this prayer was granted. The arrest lasted another year at Dömitz before Reuter was liberated in consequence of the decree of amnesty promulgated by the new King, August 10, 1840.

THE CATTLE BUSINESS.

Report in Regard to the Range and Ranch Cattle Business in the United States. By Joseph Nimmo, Jr., Chief of the Bureau of Statistics. Washington. 1885.

This pamphlet of 200 pages, with accompanying

maps, is an answer to a resolution of Congress calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information with regard to this business and its bearing upon internal and foreign commerce. The subject is one upon which accurate figures are difficult to obtain, and it is not therefore surprising to find that it consists mainly of letters, tables, and answers to circulars from various editors of live-stock journals and presidents of cattle associations. Some doubt, however, is cast upon the care with which the first pages (which are supposed to be a summary of the information thus obtained and of that already at hand), were compiled, by the very first verification one makes of figures given there. On page 54 a table is given of the number of cattle in the United States, in the census years since 1850 from census figures, and in 1884 from estimates. An examination of the Tenth Census, vol. iii, p. 1,104 (Meat production, p. 150), shows the figures 35,925,511 given here to be simply those of cattle on farms, and that, including range and ranch cattle, the total number in the United States at that time was 39,210,563. The business of raising cattle on the Western plains is scarcely fifteen years old, and, according to Mr. Nimmo's figures, represents a capitalized value of some 340 millions of dollars. It finds itself to-day in an extremely uncertain condition, owing to the absence of any legal right to the lands which it uses. The scientific studies of the Western portion of our continent, which have been more systematically conducted, owing to the liberality of Government appropriations, than those of the rest of the country, show that a large area, extending roughly from the 100th meridian west to the valleys of California and Oregon (according to Mr. Nimmo, 44 per cent. of the total area of the United States, exclusive of Alaska), is practically unfitted for agriculture, owing to the dryness of its climate. In a small portion of this area, in the neighborhood of the larger and more rapid streams, cultivation of the earth by irrigation is possible, and comparatively large returns are obtained from the virgin soil; but this portion is very small (according to Mr. Nimmo, 5 per cent. of the whole), and would probably never have been occupied by agriculturists had not exceptional inducements for them to venture into the wilderness been offered.

The first of these inducements was the driving out of the Mormons from Illinois and Missouri, and their consequent desire to seek an isolated spot, where they could support life and at the same time exercise their peculiar religious tenets undisturbed by civilized neighbors. The second was the discovery of rich metallic deposits in the region, which led to its occupation by mining communities, and thus furnished a good local market for agricultural products. The third was the discovery that the dried grasses of these apparently desert plains and valleys furnished a most admirable food for cattle, and that the dryness of the climate enabled them to winter without shelter, and their consequent occupation by herds and rancheros, thus offering to the granger either a market for his product or an opportunity of selling his claim, which the paternal Government had donated to him, if it chanced to be so situated that the neighboring herdsman had the alternative of buying it or moving his herds to some region as yet unoccupied by grangers.

Since the occupation of eastern Kansas and Nebraska by a farming population, it has been found that, in a series of years, the limit of land which it is possible to cultivate without irrigation has moved somewhat to the westward. The farmers judge this to be due to their turning up of the ground and their planting a few trees, with the effect of inducing precipitation. Some otherwise intelligent legislators, with the natu-

ral tendency that is inborn in many to prefer the opinion of a practical man to that of a scientific one, have hence come to the conclusion that it will be but a short time before precipitation will have increased over the whole of this arid area, so that it will bloom like the valley of the Mississippi. It would take too much space here to show, as might be done, that the farmer has generalized on insufficient premises, and that the change expected by the legislator can only come about by a climatic oscillation, which may take hundreds and even thousands of years, and that the possible change during the present generation is not such as can sensibly affect the present conditions of precipitation in the area as a whole.

Of the natural resources of the United States, none is certainly more remarkable than the peculiar adaptation of this great area for pasturing purposes. Here is land which at present costs nothing, since the Government has been unwilling to put it into the market at a price at which it can be bought, and which of necessity will be always very cheap, upon which cattle can be raised until they are ready to send to the corn-fields of the Valley States to fatten for market, thus giving the farmer a use for his unsalable grain, and relieving him of the burden of raising young cattle on land which is more valuable for other purposes. We have long produced more cereals than we can consume, and now a limit seems nearly reached to the portion of our surplus which we can sell to other nations; but, judging from the fact that, in spite of this overproduction of cereals, the price of beef has been steadily going up, the increase of our cattle has not kept pace with that of our population. It would seem, therefore, to be the part of wise statesmanship rather to encourage the cattle industry than to put obstruction in its way and to persecute it. As yet, in this respect, as formerly in regard to its mineral wealth, the Government has pursued a *laissez-faire* policy. The present condition of mining titles is a striking illustration of the value of that policy. Seventeen years after the discovery of gold in California, and when the whole Rocky Mountain system had been proved to be full of valuable minerals, Congress awoke to the advisability of granting to its already large mining population a right to the land which, with the enterprise characteristic of the American people, they had already taken possession of and developed. The law which they framed for this purpose was founded, not on the experience gained in mining communities in other civilized regions of the world, but upon local laws adopted by rude miners to govern their limited districts. This law, slightly modified and amplified in 1872, governs to-day all title to mineral lands upon the public domain, and, while it has enriched mining lawyers, has been a most serious drawback to the development of mining industry, from the fact that it contemplated only one form of deposit. Thousands of mines now idle would be working to-day if the men who framed this law had been broad-minded enough to consult the experience of European nations which had been mining for hundreds of years, and to look forward to the possible development of a different kind of deposit from that which was then being worked.

In the winter of 1878-9 the attention of Congress was called by a few far-sighted men to the fact that the existing land laws, admirably adapted as they had proved in governing the measurements, classification, and sale of the prairie lands of the Mississippi Valley, were neither practicable nor advisable in their application to the mountainous region to the West, now that these prairie lands were practically disposed of. A commission of six men, remarkably well-fitted by education and experience for the purpose,

was appointed to investigate the present applicability of the land laws during the summer, and to report at the next session with suggestions as to their modification. It was a gigantic undertaking for so short a time, but was accomplished, and an admirable report was made, which was promptly pigeonholed, and has not been heard from since. Among other things, this report recommended that to the existing classes of public lands, mineral and agricultural, a third class, "pasture lands," should be added, to include these grazing lands, which cannot be sold or made of any profit to the Government under existing laws. It also recommended that the classification of the lands should be intrusted to competent trained persons, and not left, as now, in the hands of entirely irresponsible and often ignorant surveyors.

It is evident that cattle men cannot afford to buy these lands at the present minimum price of \$1.25 per acre, since, as shown by the Census report above quoted, it requires from 10 to 70 acres, according to varying conditions of locality, to support a single head of stock. At present they practically get the use of the land for nothing, and it is impossible for the Government to obtain any remuneration for this use, except indirectly in the increase of the wealth of the country. Yet they are ready to pay a fair price in order to secure a legal tenure of the land they use, as evidenced by the fact that, wherever it is possible, they buy up water fronts which naturally control considerable tributary areas of pasture lands. The Land Commission of 1879 recommended that the pasture lands be sold under the same general system as agricultural lands, but that the unit should be correspondingly large as compared with their relative value, viz., 1,200 acres, instead of 160 acres, considering that this system would fulfil the intention of the original law of giving to each preëemptor or homesteader enough land on which to support a family by his own labor. They did not, however, commit themselves as to the price which should be paid for these lands, but recommended the adoption of a sliding scale, under which the lands should be offered during a certain number of years at a maximum price, this price to be gradually reduced from time to time, and the relative value of the lands to be determined by the price which those who knew them were willing to pay. The Canadian Government has adopted for corresponding lands within the Dominion line the system which prevails with regard to similar pasture lands in Australia, and leases them to the stockmen for a term of years at a small price per acre.

The National Cattlemen's Convention held at St. Louis last November adopted resolutions in favor of the adoption of a similar system by our Government, which are given in full on page 46 of Mr. Nimmo's pamphlet. The reasons there urged in its favor are, 1st, that under a secure tenure cattlemen would improve the country by sinking artesian wells; 2d, that at reasonable rates the rental would yield an annual income of ten to fifty millions to the Government. The latter reason Mr. Nimmo disposes of very briefly by saying we have no need of an increase of revenues, and gives, as an important consideration against the advisability of the adoption of this policy, the possibility that small settlers might be forced to sell their present holdings to large herdsmen. It is difficult to see why, if the law were properly framed, the small settler should be in any worse condition than he is now, and, even could it be demonstrated that he would be, why the people in general should pay from ten to fifty millions per annum to secure to the holders of one-twentieth of this area privileges over those of the other nineteen-twentieths. An equally suggestive objection brought forward by

Mr. Nimmo is that leasing at the present time would prevent other owners of herds from entering into the business in the future, and thus shut out competition. It is not to be supposed that the Government would deed away all this area at one fell swoop; and although in time it might happen that all the pasture lands would be leased, as all the Mississippi farming lands have been sold, it does not appear that competition would be shut out more in the one case than in the other, or that it is the duty of the Government to reserve the one class of lands from lease, any more than to reserve the other from sale, in order to prevent this. The clinching argument seems to be the danger lest the "unnaturalized foreigner" obtain a more permanent foothold in this country than he has already done. What he has done is apparently set forth in the tables on page 45, taken from speeches of two members of Congress, according to which the amount held by individuals and companies representing foreign capital exceeds twenty millions of acres. There is no means of verifying the correctness of these figures, since the sources from which they were obtained were not given. In the only case coming within the actual knowledge of the writer one item, which appears identically in each table, is only ten times greater than the truth. Supposing them, however, to be in the main correct, why should we be more afraid of using foreign capital to develop our lands than to build our railroads? The money paid for them (and it has generally been more than the American capitalist would have paid) has been so much added to the wealth of the country, and the fact that many "Britishers" have embarked in the cattle business is building up a strong party in England in favor of doing away with the unfair restrictions on the importation of American cattle by the Lords in Council. Were these restrictions removed, our present export of seventeen millions' worth of cattle would be rapidly doubled or even quadrupled, and go far to offset the falling off in the export of cereals.

The pith of the objection to the Britisher may be found in the following sentence of Mr. Nimmo's: "Certain of these foreigners are titled noblemen of countries in Europe. Some of them have brought over from Europe, in considerable numbers, herdsmen and other employees who sustain to them the dependent relationship which characterizes the condition of the peasantry on the large landed estates of Europe." Could anything be more ingeniously worded to appeal to the prejudices of demagogues? To those who have been in personal contact with these "titled foreigners" and their employees, it would seem supremely ridiculous to magnify an occasional valet or groom accompanying his master into a national danger, and a cowboy of the West would ask no better amusement than to see some of the "imported herdsmen" enter into competition with him on his broncho.

The general tendency of a certain class of public sentiment of late seems to have been as follows: those who have been interested in the range-cattle business have made such certain and large profits that capital is beginning to seek investment in it on a large scale. The investment of capital on a large scale means large corporations; large corporations mean large monopolies; large monopolies are popular things to war against; therefore, let us war against the range-cattle business. The outgoing Administration ordered the destruction of the wire fences which many large cattle men had put up on land to which they had no title. This action, if carried out fairly and without favoritism, would have the sympathy of a very large class among cattlemen themselves. But it seems rather pitiful to see the cry raised that it is the foreigner who is to blame for this illegal fencing, since in

the majority of cases he was persuaded to pay a large price for a herd of cattle by the inducement offered by his shrewd American seller, that so many thousands or millions of acres were under fence, and that title to these lands had been tacitly conceded by the Government.

It remains to be seen what will be the policy of the new Administration in regard to this important question, and it may be hoped that broader and less demagogic views will characterize its action. So far, it must be confessed, it does not promise very well. Land Commissioner Sparks, under date of April 3, 1885, has suspended final action on all claims for land in the West dependent on acts of settlement and cultivation. It may be assumed that this action is mainly directed against cattle companies, from the frequent remarks in the public press of late in regard to their supposed acquisition of large tracts of land by fraudulent entries. The action of Mr. Sparks takes the ground that Western men as a class are less honest than Southern, for his order does not apply to the Southern States. It allows the settler to do whatever is required by law for the proof of his claim, and to furnish the same proofs of his honesty and good faith that are required elsewhere. Having furnished this proof to the satisfaction of a law expressly framed to guard against fraud, his entry is then suspended and resubmitted to an ex-parte examination by a detective in the field. No form of procedure is indicated by which he may meet these ex-parte charges, if any are made. It seems to be assumed that, if he lives west of a certain line, he is necessarily dishonest, and his sworn statements cannot be believed. This action differs from that of the previous Administration in that it promises to work more injustice to the small settler than to the companies.

RECENT NOVELS.

Great Porter Square. By B. L. Farjeon. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

Lazarus in London. By F. W. Robinson. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

Wyllard's Weird. By Miss Braddon. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

Lester's Secret. By Mary Cecil Hay. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

The Shadow of a Crime. By Hall Caine. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

Diana of the Crossways. By George Meredith. Harper's Franklin Square Library.

Jan Vedder's Wife. By Amelia E. Barr. Dodd, Mead & Co.

Across the Chasm. Charles Scribner's Sons.

The Knight of the Black Forest. By Grace Denio Litchfield. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

A Superior Woman. No Name Series. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

In the recent numbers of the Franklin Square Library five well-known authors appear ministering to the revived taste for crime and mystery. The outlines of three of these novels are much alike. Murder is committed by a person unknown; innocent men are suspected and arrested by too zealous detectives, professional or amateur; people prattle about under any name but their legitimate one, and, finally, the opportune death of the criminal relieves the author from making the gallows a feature of his dénouement. In 'Great Porter Square' Mr. Farjeon uses these materials admirably, heightening interest in the events by giving a share in them to several irresistibly comical characters. Mrs. James Freely, who took lone gentlemen in at No. 118, and "generally did for them," is a most amusing creature, and the sympathetic reporter of the *Evening Moon* is not far behind. The plot is ingenious, but to effect

the necessary rupture between Mr. Holdfast and his son a stronger situation might have been devised. No man would have rested under Mrs. Holdfast's odious slander, with the means of disproving it and proving her infamy so easily within his reach. As a portion of Dickens's mantle has fallen upon Farjeon, so too he must share the reproach of inability to draw a lady or gentleman in the conventional sense. The fascinations of Lydia are of the *bouffe* order, and how are we to reconcile the high honor and chivalrous instincts of Mr. Sydney Campbell with his conversion of his fiancée's apartments into a common gambling house, the lady being reigning and only goddess?

The scene of 'Lazarus in London' is in the class which Mr. Robinson has succeeded in investing with interest, though of a painful kind. There is little of swift, stunning tragedy, or of picturesqueness, in the history of the millions to whom the struggle for existence is made doubly hard by self-compelled reference to standards of respectability. Their lives are on the whole barren of event, with a limited and simple range of emotions. Nothing but a keenness in getting at all the pathos, dignity, and humor there may be in common things can make such people even endurable in fiction. Mr. Robinson, contriving to ferret out these qualities, excites sympathy for his three young women stitching surplices from morning till night, tackling the problem of how to sell stockings at a profit with the young man on the next corner always advertising "great clearance sale of extra fine hosiery below cost." Indeed, curiosity about their little, incessant worries drives quite out of mind the question, Who murdered Mr. Mackness? And the answer to this question is so weak as to confirm the wisdom of indifference.

Atrocious crime is, so to speak, Miss Braddon's native heath; and though she cannot be said to have the "fleet foot on the corrie" of twenty years ago, she neither lags nor stumbles. In 'Wyllard's Weird' the victim is a young girl, fallen or flung from a railway carriage, found dead in a ravine, with nothing by which to trace her identity. As the name gives the clue to the murderer, all the complications go for naught, excepting that they exhibit the author's nicety in articulating her skeleton. If Miss Braddon would kindly append to her novels the skeleton innocent of padding, she would confer a favor on readers at once inquiring and impatient.

Miss Hay might advantageously employ a similar device. Perhaps her appendix would be more useful in the form of a receipt setting forth the exact proportion of lost will to Scotch marriage, and referring generally to handfuls of silly, irrational motive thrown in. These ingredients are used lavishly in 'Lester's Secret,' where the only novelty is yet another queer variety of the gentleman—one who permits his fondly-loved wife to impose on the public as a British maiden of the most immaculate type.

'The Shadow of a Crime' has a strong theme, with several scenes displaying power and intensity of purpose. The time, the early years of the Restoration, and the scene, among the Cumberland dalesmen, probably foredoom the book to more limited appreciation than is granted to its inferior kindred. The plot, unfortunately, lacks concentration, and the introduction of a number of people with no distinct individuality obscures the fine portrait of the Puritan Captain, Ralph Ray. There is difficulty in grasping Ray's reason for his voluntary exposure to death by the *peine forte et dure*, while the multitude of circumstances connecting him with the murder of the King's agent are confusing and tiresome rather than provocative of interest. But with patience, which is amply repaid, the chain of incident firmly linked may be followed, and there is

no uncertainty in the illustration of the inspiring idea—

"Whom God's hand rests on has God
At his right hand."

Mr. Meredith's 'Diana of the Crossways' has no secrets excepting those hopelessly buried in his metaphors and his strangely distorted sentences. His opening chapter—which readers craving story only are advised to skip—presents Diana as an historical wit and beauty, and incorporates an essay on the Art of Fiction. From the essay we gather that the Art is in a bad way, and that unless authors shall make haste to vivify it with blood, brains, and philosophy (which Mr. Meredith does and gets no thanks), it must presently die. There are many who so frankly regard Mr. Meredith's novels as "told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing," that total extinction of fiction would seem to them preferable to a reconstruction in harmony with his theories. On the other hand, there are some who love him, laud him as "one of the breed of Shakespeare and Molière," and in whose breasts the brutal insensibility of the larger faction rouses the angriest passions. It is a case where the security of the middle way tempts one to brave its imputed ignominy. Dispassionate judgment suggests that few authors have Mr. Meredith's store of wise, far-reaching ideas, and that for expressing them obscurely he is beyond compare. Then his work cannot be separated from an obtrusive personality. By a wanton interpolation of venom in the narrative, there is ever present a sour, malicious being who blights delicate fancy and poisons the tip of the shaft flying straight to the core of existence. A perpetual display of ill-temper is not excused even by his honest, scathing contempt for sham virtue, sham decency, and for all the shuffling hypocrisies which the world heaps into a rampart of defence against the shock to self-love consequent on looking fairly at the facts of life and the mainsprings of action.

Mrs. Caroline Norton is spoken of as the prototype of Diana. Both incident and what Mr. Meredith calls internal history lend plausibility to the rumor. Diana is of Irish descent, a beauty, an author, the favorite of a member of the Cabinet, and the defendant in a divorce suit. She is clever, vivacious, loving, and, if it were not for her "infinite gab," altogether charming. But she is made to pose as a wit who never nods, and she and her "Emmy" are unconsciously a fine pair of *précieuses*. In the delineation of the lady, however, at her best as at her worst, but one incongruity is noticeable. To sell a lover's intimate gossip for money is a queer business for an honest woman; to plead ignorance of the confidential nature of her talk with Dacier, a weak excuse for a clever woman. We suppose that race proclivities must bear the burden of this bit of inconsistency, and that Diana, being an Irish woman, hard up, possessing marketable secrets, involuntarily became an informer.

No effort is needed to understand the heart tragedy in 'Jan Vedder's Wife.' It is a story of the Shetland Norsemen, homely and simple, but full of picturesqueness and vigor. The situation is a common one—a cold, righteous wife, quite the pattern saint, yet full of the narrow pride and vanity of a small, self-centred nature, driving a sweet-tempered, unstable husband to the inn, to the fishing, anywhere away from home and her conscious correctness. Whether or not the habits of life and thought among an isolated people be truthfully described, the reader gets the impression of truth, which is the essential. For the hour, one lives in Lerwick, hates Margaret Vedder and her father, Peter Fae, delights in Suneva Torr, with her fluttering yellow hair, blue ribbons, and sharp tongue, and is reprehensibly in love with the sinner Jan. All this, till the turning-point of Jan's career, when the illusion

fades and the interest flags. The handsome ne'er-do-weel's phenomenal rise in the British navy recalls the legends of the Reformed Pirate, while the final measure of bliss is improbably full, and divided with a too careful impartiality. But, for the sake of little Jan's welcome home to his heroic father, splendid in gold lace and buttons, what is feeble and tame may be overlooked; and, indeed, it is somewhat captious to refer to defects in a book so unpretentious and attractive.

'Across the Chasm' is chiefly devoted to a comparison between the social customs of the Northern and Southern States. The comparisons are made by a Virginian girl, wintering in Washington, and, though neither very valuable nor searching, have an air of judicial gravity and impartiality. Her observations were largely restricted to a family exceptional in at least one respect. We are confident that, as a rule, Northern people, boasting honorable, historical lineage, wealthy and unimpeachable, do not lose their heads on receipt of an invitation from any general, even if the invitation be for what the author describes as a "recherché stag-party." There is no sort of objection to the incident from which the author is inclined to generalize; on the contrary, it is amusing, and by way of contrast with the unaccountable elation of the Gastons, the old Southern soldier's indifference is very funny. Miss Trevennon, by her marriage with the Northern Gaston, probably laid all her troublesome ghosts temporarily, but Gaston would be a rash man to assume that they would not rise again and become the permanent skeletons of the family closets.

'The Knight of the Black Forest' is a shallow stream of talk, running not with the pleasant murmur of 'Across the Chasm,' but with jarring noise. The principal characters of the sketch are two American girls, one the pert, flirtatious chit of whose innocence Europeans are incredulous—small blame to them for the incredulity; the other is a moon-struck damsel employed as a foil to her voluble companion. To carry on the slight action, there are a German Count, who, except for slight external dissimilarity, might as well be the courier, and a dull, worthy specimen of America's "bone and sinew." The tone of the sketch is irritatingly trivial and flippant, and the irritation is not lessened by the author's qualified disapproval of her heroines, and her effort to draw a sentimental moral from their ridiculous behavior.

If a good novel could be constructed out of a set of fixed, narrow notions about duty, sentiment, and religion, then 'A Superior Woman' would be a remarkable one. It is hard to decide whether the failure here is due to the uniform expression of such notions by the truly admirable people, or the ineffectual struggles of the unworthy to depart from them. To demand a many-sided mind as an essential in a novelist is perhaps unreasonable, but to rebel against the rigidly one-sided is lawful. The plot of this novel eludes dissection by its feeble inconsequence, but about one or two minor points a lively inquisitiveness is excited. Why are we so often explicitly told that "the ladies took their habits with them"? Do not ladies generally take their habits where they are likely to need them as surely as they take their shoes? And why should an American Episcopalian, a layman with no specially devout tendencies, permit "Holy Week" to sit so heavy on his soul, or rise in wrath because his relations suggest visiting him on "Holy Thursday"? And, finally, why do such eminently well-bred people never let slip an opportunity to make a blundering, tactless remark or scene? But the last question is obviously idle, given no indication that the author has found the test of people-of-the-world to be not so much what they do say as what they don't.

The Structure of English Prose: a Manual of Composition and Rhetoric. By John G. R. McElroy, A.M., Professor of Rhetoric and the English Language in the University of Pennsylvania. A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1885.

THIS is a sort of work to the consideration of which the reviewer, however unsympathetic by nature, comes with a heavy heart. It is the result of well-intentioned, honest, and laborious effort; but it is not often that so much effort of this kind has so little that is satisfactory to show for result. The author has read many books on the subject which he has treated here, but some of them he has read to little purpose, and others of them were not worth reading at all. Unfortunately, too, these last are the ones to which he acknowledges himself to be under the greatest obligations. There is, indeed, a guilelessness which disarms criticism in the simplicity with which he expresses his admiration for certain works which he is the first to speak of in the light of authorities. From one of these he has acquired what constitutes one of the most vicious characteristics of his own book—the habit of dividing and subdividing topics, ticketing each division and subdivision with a big word, and then burdening it, and the reader also, with an elaborate definition. It is rather late in the day to import into modern practice the methods of the schoolmen.

It would be difficult, for illustration, to discover the particular benefit that the student will derive from painfully committing to memory the statement that the subjective qualities of style are (1) *Significance*, (2) *Continuousness*, (3) *Naturalness*; and that Significance implies two things: (a) that the speaker have some thought to communicate; (b) that the words employed actually express some meaning, etc., etc. This is no isolated or extreme specimen of the contempt in which the author holds the human intellect, and his unwillingness to admit that certain things can be assumed as known to a college student of average capacity or even incapacity. The constant recurrence of these distinctions, with the elaborate explanations of what does not need explanation, reminds the reader of nothing so much as of that riotous banquet on board Pompey's galley, in which Shakspeare represents Antony as informing the inquisitive and drunken Lepidus that the crocodile is shaped like itself; that it is as broad as it has breadth; that it moves by its own organs; that it lives by that which nourisheth it; and that, finally, the tears of it are wet. Worse, however, than explanations which give no information, is the process of dividing and subdividing. It has in the past brought the whole subject of rhetoric into disrepute, and it is unfortunate to find it elaborated and extended as in this work. Its results to the student are harmful, because it cheats him with the belief that in acquiring names he is acquiring knowledge. If he received a stone for the intellectual bread he was asking for, he would reject it; but he swallows with no hesitation a series of pebbles in the shape of distinctions and definitions.

The work is divided into two parts. The first treats of Style, the second of Invention. This is in accordance with the views laid down in the opening sentences of the author's preface, that the teacher of rhetoric has the double office imposed upon him of making writers, and of exhibiting the laws of his art so as to promote mental discipline. As the former is much the more important for him to do, much the larger portion of the work is devoted to it. There are certainly many good hints and suggestions on usage and style to be found here; but there are so many erroneous assertions also that it is asking too much to expect the mere learner to separate the one from the other. No small share of this part

is given up to the discussion of the correct or incorrect employment of words and phrases. We are not disposed to wax enthusiastic over the utility of treatises of this kind even when well done. The most they can do in that case is to save the student from errors of detail: "to make writers," as the author expresses it—that is, to impart clearness, beauty, and strength of style—they are almost utterly powerless. They have about the same relation to the production of good writing that books of etiquette have to the production of good manners. When treatises of this kind are ill done they work more harm than good; nor can we say of this part of the work that it is anything more than imperfectly done. It does not rise much above the level of those ephemeral publications with which the press abounds, wherein men, knowing nothing of good usage, set out to correct the great masters of English speech, or, knowing nothing of the history of our tongue, seek zealously to make the public the sharers in their own ignorance.

Out of scores of cases that might be given we shall content ourselves with one. On page 106 a rule is laid down for the use of the relatives *who* and *which*, on the one hand, and of *that* on the other. It is a rule that has never been followed by any one who has the slightest claim to being regarded as an authority. It is not followed now, and it may safely be predicted that it never will be followed. The author tells us himself that "unfortunately the distinction is not observed by modern writers," though of course it ought to be. He goes on, in defiance of his own belief, to give a list of exceptions for cases in which he admits that conformity to his rule "would be intolerable." The last of these exceptions is the pretty comprehensive one, "for variety's sake," and by the time it is reached there has been very little left of the original canon by which correct usage was in this matter to be tested. He asserts, moreover, that the distinction he lays down existed in Elizabethan English and was "generally" followed; but that by the eighteenth century *that* had nearly usurped the relative function. Surely, an instructor in English ought to know that if there has been any usurpation of the relative function, it has been on the part of *who* and *which*; that after the break-up of Anglo-Saxon *that* was for centuries the universal relative, and that it was not till Elizabethan English that the nominative of the original interrogative *who*

had effectually established itself in the speech as a relative.

It shows, in truth, an entire misapprehension of the subject to fancy that any teacher of rhetoric is able "to make writers," and especially to make them through the agency of text-book instruction. The utmost such instruction can do is, as we said before, to correct errors of detail, nor even in that particular can great importance be attached to it. Writing, like speech, is an imitative art, and no one gains from the study of rhetoric the ability to express himself clearly and forcibly on paper any more than he gains from the study of grammar the ability to express himself correctly in conversation. The author, however, seems confident of the success of his own system, and it is simple justice to him to add that he informs us in the preface that the course has never yet failed to yield in large measure the fruit expected of it. Whether the world will be as partial to the result of his work, is something that the future alone can determine.

Our Birds in Their Haunts: A Popular Treatise on the Birds of Eastern North America. By Rev. J. H. Langille, M.A. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Co. 1884. 8vo, pp. 624; woodcuts in the text.

As a "popular treatise," *Our Birds in Their Haunts* is entitled to favorable mention; it does not aspire to higher recognition. It aims to be attractive to the general reader, and the author's method of grouping his bird-narratives in accordance with the order of the seasons, or the peculiar localities the birds frequent, happily tends to this end. In the first chapter, suggestively entitled "Hoar-frost," he treats of such cold-weather birds as the horned lark, the red-poll, the pine grosbeak, chickadees, and woodpeckers. In "Snowed In" we are introduced to snow buntings, longspurs, waxwings, various kinds of owls and finches, and the ruffed grouse—a truly motley assemblage, whose bond of union is the fact that they are all more or less characteristic forms of winter bird-life. "Below Zero" brings us face to face with another set of hardy winter birds, while under "Voices of Spring" what else should we expect than the bluebird, the robin, and other "early birds" of springtime? Under other suggestive headings are treated the birds of later spring and

summer. Again, locality is the thread on which the author's bird stories are strung, as in the chapters entitled "Bird-life in Nova Scotia," "Georgian Bay," "Tenting on the Niagara," "New Jersey Coast and the Osprey," in which birds naturally associating in certain haunts are treated together.

The author is a good observer, and his sketches and observation are thoroughly trustworthy so far as they relate to species with which he is personally familiar. He is enthusiastic, and has considerable skill in placing on paper what he has seen and heard, and is often particularly happy in his delineations of bird-songs. Although his birds are so informally introduced, and his matter relates so exclusively to the field and forest, to the marshes, the lakes, and the seashore, he has aimed to give his volume the value of a handbook, and therefore incorporates in his account of each species a description of its characters, at the same time carefully avoiding technicalities. While in most cases the characters given are ample for the recognition of the bird, there is at times a rather serious lack of explicitness, and a failure to hit the distinctive points. As already intimated, the author's general knowledge of his subject is obviously limited, and when he departs from an account of his own experiences, or attempts to treat of birds he has never himself met with, he betrays distinctly the faltering steps of an amateur, as when he here and there attempts to generalize, or makes reference to Western forms of bird-life allied to those of his own region. While he has succeeded, on the whole, in making a creditable book about the bird-life of Eastern North America, he has failed in his intention to give "the sum total" of the subject.

A strong but not obtrusive clerical flavor will make this treatise welcome to a certain class of readers. The illustrations, says the author, "have been nearly all furnished by Dr. Coues," and, while thus shorn of any feature of novelty, are none the less appropriate and instructive. There is an index to the English names of the birds, but no table of contents.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Vasili, Count Paul. *The World of London.* Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
Ventura, L. D. Peppino. *W. R. Jenkins.* 25 cents.
"Where Men Only Dare to Go" or, *the Story of a Boy Company* (C. S. A.) Richmond: Whittell & Shepperson.
Yonge, Charlotte M. *The Two Sides of the Shield.* Macmillan & Co.

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Premiums on Policies not marked off 1st January, 1884.....	1,447,756 70
Total Marine Premiums.....	\$5,405,796 14

Premiums marked off from 1st January, 1884, to 31st December, 1884.....	\$4,066,271 04
Losses paid during the same period.....	\$2,100,919 20

Returns of Premiums and Expenses.....	\$787,789 40
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Loans, secured by Stocks and otherwise.....	2,005,100 00
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Premium Notes and Bills Receivable.....	1,454,959 73
Cash in Bank.....	261,544 65
Amount.....	\$12,938,289 38

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